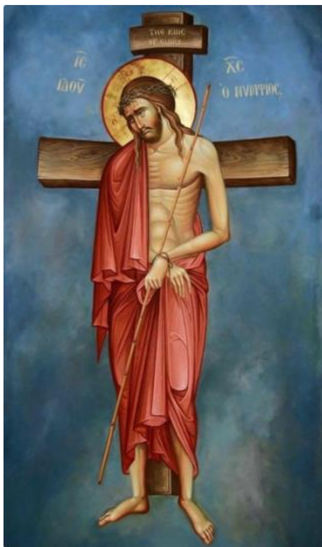
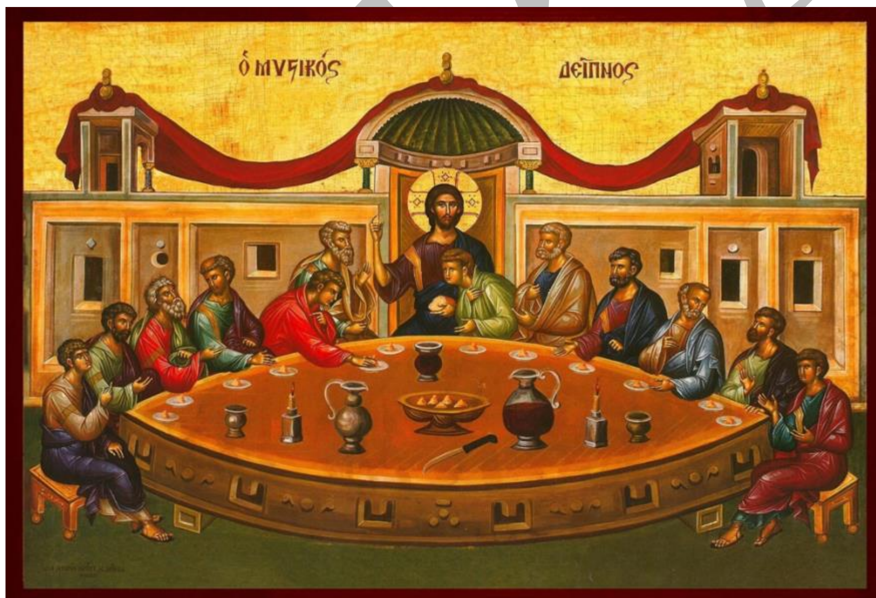
The Prumiyons and Sedros of Great and Holy Week











(March 2023)

Translated from Syriac by: Fr. Dr. Baby Varghese

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GREAT AND HOLY MONDAY | VESPERS / RAMSHO

INTRODUCTORY PRAYER

Make us worthy, O Lord God, to suffer in Your passion for us and to imitate Your humility for us, to take pride in Your crucifixion for our sake, to be healed by Your wounds for our salvation, and to live by Your death which gives life to our mortality, so that we may rejoice with You and exult in Your resurrection which gladdens our sorrow, our Lord and our God, forever. Amin!

PRUMIYON

Let us pray and beseech mercy and compassion from the Lord! Merciful Lord, have mercy upon us and help us! May we be held worthy at all times and moments to offer glory, thanksgiving, honor, praise and good exaltation that never passes away. Glory to Him who is impassible in His substance, and came for voluntary suffering in His dispensation, in order to make us impassible and immortal, and torn away the bond of our debts by His passion, and brought impassibility for our race liable to suffering, and reconciled the heavenly and the earthly beings by His holy sufferings. There befits Him...

SEDRO

Our Lord Jesus Christ, merciful, abundantly gracious, and just, compassionate, benevolent, patient and the Lover of men, the Mighty One, lived with men by dispensation, and suffered in the flesh voluntarily for our salvation, being impassible by nature and exalted from passions. He taught us to purify and clear the passions of sins from our souls, that we may not be subjected to the passions of sin. Since we have been saved by His sufferings and healed by His scourges and freed by His wounds, we worship and confess Him, and we wait for His passion, and with cheerful ness, we cry out saying: Come with peace *(or welcome!)* the redeeming and holy passion, which has

delivered us from the shameful passions of sin! Come with peace, the holy and redeeming passion of our God, for by you, we have discovered new life which never gets old! Come with peace, the redeeming passion of our God which opened the treasury of all spiritual blessings before us! Come with peace, the holy and redeeming passion of our God, which gained for us the purity from the corruption of dishonorable things! Come with peace, the holy and redeeming passion of our God, which became for us the path and trace that leads to the kingdom of heaven! Come with peace, the redeeming and holy passion of our God, for the pledge of all virtue is present in you for us! Come with peace, the redeeming and holy passion of Christ, for you have become the weapon of salvation for us. Come with peace, holy and life-giving passion, our debt due to the transgression of the Law was repaid by You. Come with peace, holy and redeeming passion of our God, for by You the deceit of Satan was ruined! Come with peace, holy and redeeming passion of Christ, for today in every region, you are extolled by every nation like a king! Come with peace, holy and life-giving passion of our God, for the pains and sickness of our humanity was healed by You! Come with peace, holy and redeeming passion, for you have become for us the harbor of peace from the waves and storms of sin! Come with peace, holy and life-giving passion for by You, our infirmities and blemishes are purified! Come with peace, holy and redeeming passion, for by you light and life dawned for the entire creation! Come with peace, holy and redeeming passion for by You the fetters and the bonds of sins imposed on us, were broken off! Come with peace, holy and redeeming passion, for by You every kind of help was granted to us! Come with peace, holy and redeeming passion, for you have become an incense of reconciliation with the Father for our sake! Come with peace, holy and redeeming passion, for by the image of Adam gained renewal! Come with peace, holy and redeeming passion, for by you, we have gained holiness and justice! Come with peace, holy and redeeming passion, for you have given us the exaltation from the earth

to the heaven! Come with peace, holy and redeeming passion, for you became for us *(the means of)* peace with those who are in heaven! Come with peace, holy and redeeming passion, for the door that Adam had closed by the transgression of the commandment, was opened by you! Now we beseech and supplicate you with this fragrant incense, Christ our God, who voluntarily suffered in the flesh, hold us worthy to put on *(Ibesh)* Your passion and to bear Your insult, to imitate Your humiliation, and to be proud of Your crucifixion, and that our souls may be healed by Your compassion, and may we become guests in Your marriage feast and the friends of the bridegroom in Your banquet, both us and our departed, stand at Your right hand and see Your compassion, and offer You glory and praise, to You and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit. Now and always, forever.

Etro

Accept O Lord, by Your compassion the incense of Your Holy Church, and be pleased with the supplication of Your rational flock, which worships and glorifies Your passion, cherishes, and kisses Your wounds, rejoices, and takes pride in Your cross. Exalt its horn in every quarter, that always she may offer You the sweet fruits of thanksgiving, instead of the vinegar *(lit: husks)* of impiety extended to You by that killer, to You the adorable Son and the true heir-for You are worshipped and glorified with the Father and the Holy Spirit. Now....

Great and Holy Monday | Compline / Soutoro

Prumiyon

To Him who, by His nature, is exalted and beyond passions, who came near in flesh for voluntarily sufferings, and who, being exalted from death died in the body, and is living in the Spirit as He was willing, that Lord of glory who was suspended on the cross as a

guilty one, and removed our sufferings by His suffering, and by His death, removed the sting of death from us, and by His cross dethroned the authority of the Evil one and blotted out his victory upon us, and by the stripping of His body, he has put the principalities and authorities in to shame, let us offer unceasing honor and unending glory and unfailing praise, humble worship and eternal thanksgiving. On account of His passion, death, cross and salvation, let us offer hymns of thanksgiving before Him now and...

Sedro

Merciful and terrible God, who lived with us for our correction by way of dispensation and suffered voluntarily in the flesh for our salvation, while being perfectly impassible in His nature, and taught us to fully cleanse and purify the passions of sins from our souls entirely through good actions. With pure hearts, we cry out and say with joy: Come with peace, the redeeming passion which had liberated us from the worship of idols and from the defilement of graven images. Blessed are you, the redeeming passion which delivered us from the craft and deceit of the evil one. Come with peace, the honorable and holy passion, which became for us the way of life and salvation. Blessed are you, redeeming and holy passion, for by you our iniquities and defilements were absolved. Peace to you, redeeming and holy passion, for by you our weakness was strengthened, and our laxity was corrected, and our ignorance was made wise. Therefore we beseech You, Christ our God, who suffered in the flesh for our sake: hold us all worthy to suffer in Your passion, and to bear Your insult and to be exalted in Your humility and to be proud of Your crucifixion, and our souls may be sanctified by Your cross, and may we be the guests in Your banquet, and wedding guests in Your feast. We will offer up glory that befits Your honor, and thanksgiving that we owe to Your Majesty, with Your Father and Your Holy Spirit. Now...

[No 'Etro]

Great and Holy Monday | Night / Lilyo: First Qaumo

[On the Parable of the Vineyard]

Introductory Prayer

Awaken us, Lord, from our sleep in the sloth of sin that we may praise your watchfulness, You who watch and do not sleep; give life to our death in the sleep of death and corruption, that we may adore Your compassion, You who live and do not die; grant us in the glorious company of the angels who praise You in heaven, to praise You and bless you in holiness, because You are praised and blessed in heaven and on earth, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and always and forever. Amin.

Prumiyon

To that Word, who is simple and spiritual in His nature, who voluntarily came for the bodily composition *(rokubo),* to bring the corporals and the earthly ones to His image, to make the rejected and the strangers His kinsmen, to gather together the aliens and the abandoned towards Him and to assemble them before *(wa'do)* His Majesty, and to plant them in the vineyards of His inheritance and to make them the labourers of His service, to make them heirs of the blessings of His kingdom and to make them to rejoice by the splendor of His greatness, to Him befits...

Sedro

God the Father, Lord, and the maker of all spiritual *(incorporeal)* and perceptible creations, who, because of Your ineffable love for humanity. You did plant on earth Israel, the spiritual vineyard, and You did make a fence of the Mosaic Law around it. You erected a winepress of Aaronic priesthood, which perfected the sacrifices of the law. You did build in it a high tower of prophecy which saw the hidden things. You have

entrusted it to the labourers *(namely)* the priests, scribes, and the Levites to till it, prune it and to manure it and to keep it through teachings, chastisements, rebukes, and threats and to produce fruits of justice. And when the time of the fruits arrived, You sent Your servants, the holy prophets to the labourers, in order to send and offer the spiritual fruits through them. The labourers held them, struck one and killed another. Again, You send more labourers than earlier, and they did the same with them. Finally, You sent Your beloved Son to them that they might see Him and be ashamed and offer the fruits through Him. When they saw Him and understood that he is the heir, they held Him and took Him out of the vineyard, crucified Him, and killed Him, and handed over Him to be buried. Therefore, You uprooted and scattered the accursed vineyard of Israel, which produced wild grapes of evil and disgraceful acts, instead of grapes of virtues and You broke down the fence and pulled down the high tower of prophecy and destroyed it and made it to be trampled underfoot. You gave orders to the clouds of angels' not to pour out the rain of divine knowledge upon it. And You have planted in its place the glorious Vine, the Holy Church, chosen from among the gentiles. And You have made a fence of the Gospel Law around it and adorned it with the angelic priesthood. You have established it with the high tower of the cross, and entrusted it to the labourers: the apostles, evangelists, shepherds, doctors and chosen priests, that through them she might offer spiritual fruits worthy of Your divinity. You have established Christ, the stone, rejected by the sons-that is by the Jewish leaders-the cornerstone, which joins and unites the heavenly with the earthly beings, the people with the gentiles, which shakes and breaks into pieces, and shatters all who stumble against it. Since it was done by You, it became a wonder to the world. Therefore We beseech You, O Lord God and Lover of man, through this incense, to make us chosen Vineyard which brings forth the fruits of justice, so that with the diligent laborers who toiled in Your vineyard from morning to evening, hold us worthy of the perfect and

spiritual reward and may we drink anew the spiritual wine in Your banquet prepared by You for those who have followed You with glory, justice, purity and holiness and adhered to Your beloved Son. As we have become partakers of Your passion and death, may we participate also in the new life that never passes away and His awaited resurrection. Through Him and with Him, we will offer you glory and thanksgiving, now and forever. Amen.

ETRO

Receive, O Lord, the fruits of our lips and the praises of our tongues as acceptable sacrifices and fragrant incense that are offered for Your pleasure. Bless those who offer and remit the debts of the poor, for You have said: "Offer thanksgiving to God" and "His sacrifices are humble spirit". Likewise, hold us worthy to minister You always. For You did not desire the sacrifice of the Law, and You were not pleased with the whole burnt offerings which were shadows. But You are pleased in the atoning sacrifice of Your Beloved Son, who took *(away)* by His person the sins of the world. To Him, with You and with Your Holy Spirit, we owe glory, honor, exaltation, thanksgiving, and adoration, now...

GREAT AND HOLY MONDAY| NIGHT / LILYO: SECOND QAUMO

PRUMIYON

The One who by His wisdom, was pleased and by His grace to plant the spiritual garden, the House of Israel, on earth in the fertile soil. By His justice, He made the fence of the Law around it and by His mercy built the tower of the observance of the commandment in it and by His grace established the vine press, the altar of sacrifices and drink offerings in it, and by His compassion appointed in it prophets to shower the rain of the teachings of life. And He entrusted it to the labourers -the scribes and the priests- to labor in it

according to His will. And He waited for the grapes, and it produced wild grapes, and He sought in it the fruits of righteousness, the evil labourers clamored against the heir, and they shed His blood outside the vineyard, and mocked at Him. Let us glorify and praise Him who destroyed it and planted the vineyard that produces sweet fruits of faith, now...

SEDRO

Glory to You and praise to You, God the Word, who was sent by the Father for the salvation of His creation, the beloved Son who came in the end of the times to visit the vineyard that the Father had planted in the center *(karno)* of the fertile land, the glorious vine that came to be planted among the gentiles, instead of the vineyard devastated by the evil labourers, the righteous judge who had made known His judgement on the labourers and revealed to them about their destruction and, about the labourers whom He was going to appoint in their place. He came at the time of the fruits and found but wild grapes in His vineyard, and revealed Himself to be the heir who came after His inheritance and the pledge of life. The sons of Cain recognized that he is the heir, and they took counsel to kill Him so that He should not inherit. One who is blameless in His judgement, condemned the culpable workers by decreeing their judgement. And He showed them that He is the cornerstone whom they have rejected for their destruction. The Beloved One showered forth His favors upon the evil men, who repaid Him evil. The heir of the father came to collect sweet fruits from the vineyard, and the accursed labourers extended vinegar and gall to Him. They condemned the righteous one -who has never done (any) iniquity, in whose mouth no deceit is found with the wicked for the murder of Cain. The consolation of the distressed and the physician of the sick endured pain, blows and beatings from His jealous brethren. The Lord of all was sold deceitfully by His disciple and was bought by the rebellious servants of His Father. The

deceitful priests took counsel against the Resurrection and Life which give life to the dead among Israel, as to how they should kill Him and destroy His name -the Hope for whom the righteous fathers were waiting to see Him- the rebellious sons prepared the tree for His crucifixion. The root of Jesse and the shoot of Judea came to renew the Kingdom of David, His father and His own people renounced Him and asked for a robber in His place. The Savior who came for the salvation of His people and the stubborn people did not desire their salvation. The Splendor of the Father came to illuminate the darkness and the sons of night came in the night holding torches and lamps to extinguish Him. The Holy One sanctifies the defiled with His holiness and the hypocrites were defiled by His killing. The Lover of man came to reconcile His Father with His creation with His own blood and those who shed the innocent blood like Cain, trembled and went around like the miserable for ever. The heavenly peace came to speak of peace with His people and the rebellious people quarreled with Him like their fathers. The evil and the merciless servants showed enmity towards the abyss of mercies who pours forth the ocean of help upon the needy. Christ the Almighty came towards His own and His own (people) did not receive Him. My Lord, we have received You in our minds and we loved You with our whole heart and extol You in the cradles of our hearts; by Your grace, plant us in the new vineyard upon the earth of delights. And make the fence of mercies and compassion around us. You have made for us spiritual altars upon which we shall offer sacrifices of thanksgiving and You have built high towers in heaven for us. You have caused to flow the living and spiritual water from Your unfailing spring. Hold us worthy, O Lord that we may offer sweet grapes as it befits Your Lordship, which makes Your Majesty joyful and we may serve You with purity and we may press sweet wine of love from the grapes, and to offer You pure and undefiled spiritual fruits, and may we become good servants who do Your will. Purify us from the deceit of the sons of Cain and deliver us from the falsehood of Caiaphas's companions

and liberate us from the perverse thoughts of the Pharisees, the hypocrites and make us free from the misery of the scribes and the teachers of iniquities and keep us from deceitful men who shed blood. Mingle us with Abel, the innocent lamb and with the robber on Your right-hand, make us to rejoice with You in Your kingdom. With all those who have pleased You, we will offer up glory and thanksgiving to You and to Your Father...

ETRO

O Lord, the goal *(loa'do)* of life and the harbor of every benefit, who consoles those who are troubled, wearied and afflicted by the waves and tumults and storms of sin, accept this incense that we offer before You. May we be strengthened by it and be purified from every transgression and fault which we have committed before You. By Your grace, hold us worthy to reach peacefully the harbor of light which You prepared for those who toiled with rectitude and stood before You with purity. For You desire the salvation of all men. To You we offer up glory and thanksgiving and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit. Now...

GREAT AND HOLY MONDAY | NIGHT / LILYO: THIRD QAUMO

PRUMIYON

Glory to that Wise Creator who, by His grace, brought everything into existence, that Savior and Mighty Redeemer who by His love for humanity, placed himself as the salvation on behalf of all, that harbor of peace, in which the wearied and the afflicted by all (sorts of) sin find consolation of their souls, that resting place of peace by which those who were bearing the heavy burden of the Law gained freedom, that righteous one who,

for the sake of the sinners, made Himself sin, to that wise physician who, for the sake of the sick, counted Himself as sick in order to heal their pains, there befits glory...

Sedro

God who is the true light and inscrutable, the Guardian and Helper of all, who by the intensity of Your revelation, enlightens all quarters. In the beginning You created man in Your image and perfected him with glory and the gifts of Your Holy Spirit. When he transgressed Your commandment and was rejected from the land of life, and was expelled from Paradise, by Your mercies You had pity on him, for he became old and worn out by corruption. You did send Your Son for his salvation, who was born from the Holy Virgin, and by His redemptive and life-giving dispensation, He did give remedy and healing to him who was sick and defiled by shameful foulness. You ex¬tended the hands of help towards him and applied wine and oil on his wounds. And He dispelled the mournful darkness of passion by His passion and filled everything under the sky with the light of His knowledge, and was seen as a splendid ray, and like a lamp of holy light. He indicated to us the way of life that we might walk in it. He became for us the guide towards truth, and the meeting place *(beth iva'do)* of all virtues. He was manifested to us as the harbor *(for taking refuge)* from all violent tempests and the worldly affairs. For us He was found as the perfect resting place from fatigue, troubles, and heavy burdens of the Law. He taught us the new commandment of the light yoke - a better doctrine of humility, that we might find perfect rest for our souls. Now with joyful heart, great rejoicing and delight of mind, may we exult in the salvation which we have found through Him, and with our lips, may we praise openly, and may we confess secretly in our thoughts, and may we hold the lamps in our hands and may we strip off our old man, and may we shine with the splendid beam of light, and may we put on the new image which is in You, and from here may we reach the harbor of light. With the

prophet David, we say: On the day, may we be illuminated by Your light and in the night walk in You, the pillar of light. May our thoughts and minds be illuminated by You, the true light. May we worship *(You)* with the works of justice and become prepared to receive the redemptive and life-giving passion of Your Only Begotten Son, who became for us the harbor of salvation *(which leads)* to Your imperishable kingdom. May we meet You along with the wise virgins *(holding)* lighted lamps, without our lamps being failed and being in need of the oil of good works. But instead of this perishable lamp, which we hold now in our hands, here in the Holy Church, there in Your glorious bridal chamber, may we light the lamps of our souls with the oil of mercy. With purity of heart and clarity of mind, and perfect freedom from all evil things and complete deliverance from troubles, may we offer glory and thanksgiving to You and to Your Only Begotten Son and to Your Holy Spirit. Now...

ETRO

O Lord, the ocean of mercies and compassion, who by the copious showers of Your ineffable grace, console the afflicted and the distressed who take refuge in Your loving kindness, be to us Helper and Savior through this incense which we offer before You. Make us free from the shameful passions of sin. By it, grant us remission of debts and forgiveness of sins. Hold us worthy, O Bridegroom of righteousness and truth, along with those virgins who were not negligent, with joyous shouts, exultation, and cheerful minds, to offer up glory and thanksgiving to You and to Your Father...

GREAT AND HOLY MONDAY | NIGHT / LILYO: FOURTH QAUMO

(On the Ten Virgins)

PRUMIYON

Glory to You, for because of Your love and love for humanity. You have lived among *(or dealt with)* us by way of dispensation for the sake of our salvation and composed redemptive parables on the master having compassion for His creation. You have told us in Your redemptive Gospel: 'Be watchful, for you do not know when the bridegroom is coming' and 'Do not resemble the foolish virgins'. We beseech You, Christ our God to hold us worthy to welcome You at Your terrible coming, having filled *(lit. lighted)* our lamps with the oil of righteousness, and to enter with You into that bridal chamber full of light, and we will together offer up glory and thanksgiving to You...

SEDRO

Christ our God, by Your manifestation in the flesh. You have revealed to us the glorious condition and the coming judgement. Word, the Only Begotten, You took flesh from the virgin and became incarnate for our sake. Therefore, You have exalted and magnified the virginity and You have made it the resemblance of God and similar to the angels. You compared the heavenly kingdom to the virgins, as if it has been prepared and promised to the saints chaste from sin. You had compared the heavenly kingdom to the ten virgins holding the lamps with the whole of the human beings who were created in Your beautiful image. By the wise virgins, You have indicated those who performed righteousness with fervent zeal, comparing *(it)* to oil. You have referred to those who were lacking oil of virtues as foolish. Because of Your union and philanthropy towards our race, by Your grace You named Yourself bridegroom, and You named "delay" the time between Your ascension to heaven and Your second coming. You have symbolized *(arzth)* the death that leads everyone away as 'slumber', and 'deep sleep'. And You have related last trumpet and the voice of the archangel and the resurrection of each one from the tomb as shouting and the going out for welcoming the bridegroom and the bride. And through the unworthiness of the lamps of the foolish virgins, the begging for oil

and its lacking. You have shown that everyone shall stand before You with justice, with the works he had done here and that those who have gloriously lived with works of light will rejoice in the brilliant, rather splendid light and will become worthy of entering with You into the spiritual and imperishable marriage feast of Your kingdom, and those who have become dark by the works of evil and darkness, and are lacking the oil of virtues for the lamps of their souls, will be tormented in the outer darkness, and will suffer chasing away and casting out from the door of the holy chamber. Therefore, through this fragrant incense which we offer before You, we beseech You, O Merciful God and the true bridegroom who calls the people and the nations to His glorious wedding feast and invites the gentiles and the races to His beautiful bridal chamber: in that night in which the shout of Your terrible coming occurs and at the time of Your awesome manifestation, when the expected joy comes for the *(wise)* virgins who were ready, and the grief kept for the foolish virgins is at hand, and unexpectedly and suddenly, the moment of Your coming arrives and hastily the time of revelation is manifested, when the terrible shout before the descent of Your Majesty and terrible confusion around the splendor of Your glory takes place, when the wise virgins go out with delighted faces, and the foolish remain gloomy, when the wise virgins meet You with confidence and the foolish virgins beseech You with the confusion of face, when the wisdom of the wise manifest like light and the foolishness of the foolish become obscure like darkness, when the lamps of the wise shine forth and the lamps of the foolish are extinguished, when You separate the foolish from the wise, and expel those of the darkness from those of light, and You select the luminous wise virgins and reject the foolish who are in the darkness, when the wise rejoice near their light and the foolish mourn near their lamps, when those who are prepared enter first and the negligent remain with shame, when the wise enter the bridal chamber with joy and the doors are being shut against the foolish with grief, when the foolish find the doors of the bridal chamber being closed, and look

at their lamps that are extinguished, when the wise exult in the bridal chamber and the foolish are tormented in Gehenna, when the wise see You in glory and the foolish call upon You with sigh, when the wise sing in the bridal chamber of light and the foolish weep outside the door, in that terrible and fearful moment, O Lord, do not reject us outside the door with shame! Do not put out the lamps of our souls in the banquet! Do not make the lamps of our spirit obscure in Your wedding feast! Do not shut the door of Your bridal chamber against our faces! Do not reject us by Your righteous decrees! But by Your grace, hold us worthy to face the moment of Your manifestation with viaticum *(zwode)* that has been prepared and with unsoiled garments, with lighted lamps and torches that do not extinguish and to receive You with the just and the righteous without shame, and to sing Your glory with the wedding guests and the invited who do not die. And from among those who are invited by You for the banquet and those who are ready to enter the bridal chamber and the guests who rejoice at Your feast, we will offer up glory and honor to You and to Your Father...

'Etro

Christ our God, our true Bridegroom, who taught us to be ready to meet You like the wise virgins who had prepared their lamps, and otherwise the doors will be shut against us, if we are not worthy to enter into that bridal chamber full of delights. By Your loving kindness, accept this incense of Your worshippers. By Your grace, hold us worthy to meet You on the day of Your revelation with lighted lamps and confidence, having been freed from grief and shame, and to sing glory and praise with the just and the righteous to You and to Your Father...

Great and Holy Monday | Matins / Sapro

(On the Vineyard of the beloved)

INTRODUCTORY PRAYER

My Lord, let the soil of our heart not become fruitless like the vineyard of Israel, which produced wild grapes instead of sweet fruit, but may the vine-shoots that You have planted and the vine that You have nurtured produce fruits of comely, delightful varieties that please You. And may Your Father take delight in us and be glorified by us, with You and Your Holy Spirit, as One Essence, now and always, forever, and ever.

PRUMIYON

Glory and praise to You the true vinedresser and the owner of the true vineyard. You have planted a vine-shoot among the gentile Egyptians and brought it out with might and wonders. The earth was filled by it and did not give You the fruits it owed You. Its workers killed the prophets inside the vineyard and its priests crucified Your beloved Son. *(Therefore)* You rooted it up and rejected it, and behold it is trampled by the gentiles. In its place. He planted the Church and behold, it gives Him sweet fruits of praises. In this moment *[and always we will offer up]* ....

SEDRO

God, invisible Father, Lord of all and Maker of all, who created this visible and material world, and You appointed in it the first man -both earthly and heavenly one, the image of Your glory and the likeness of Your majesty - as king and lord. By the jealousy of the evil one, he had fallen from his dwelling place of Eden, when he forgot and did not keep the commandment that You had established for him, and he was overpowered by bitter experience. From the tree of life, he was expelled to the sorrowful exile. But he was not deprived of the help of Your grace, and You have endured many misfortunes on account of him. Because of Your covenant with the former saints *(kine)* and patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and You did keep the covenant and grace with Your people, the beloved Israel, whom You have chosen for You from the gentiles and called Your name

upon it. You did bring the vine out of Egypt with wonderful might and manifold signs. You destroyed the gentiles and planted it. The earth was filed by it and the mountains were covered with its shadow, and the heights by its branches. That spiritual and chosen vineyard, which was called firstborn and beloved, was enclosed, and fortified with the fence of the Law. A wine press of legal and shadowy priesthood was erected in it. And You built in it a high tower of Your holy covenant and watered it with the prophetic rains and raised it and entrusted it to the diligent workers-the scribes of the people. At the time of the fruit. You did send Your servants, the holy prophets to the lazy workers, that they might bring good fruits to You. But because of their impudence, they did not offer the fruits and inflicted evil upon Your beloved servants. Some they condemned and others they struck, persecuted, treated shamefully, wounded, or killed. For their reproach and shame. You sent Your beloved Son towards them. When they saw Him humble, quiet, and peaceful among them, they treated Him with contempt and called Him demoniac and Samaritan. They inflicted every *(sort of)* suffering upon Him and repaid Him with abuses. They took Him to the tribunal and made Him to stand *(there)* and dressed Him with the garments of mocking. When they understood that He is the heir, they took Him outside the garden and suspended Him on the tree. Instead of the sweet fruits they gave Him vinegar and gall to drink. But You the owner and the planter of the vineyard rewarded them with justice. When the cursed vineyard gave wild grapes instead of the sweet grapes. You did root it up, and dispersed it among the gentiles, and left it for stupor and trampling underfoot, and the wild beasts grazed in it. You set its branches on fire and pulled down its fence of the Law, and demolished the powerful tower and removed the priestly vine press. Instead of it. You did plant for You a good vineyard, a new people, *(chosen)* from the gentiles. The Church was gathered together from the gentiles and the races which was redeemed by the blood of Your Only Begotten and turned from the error of the idols to Your knowledge. Her children keep Your truth,

and her sons call upon You: 'Our Father!'. She is proud of the death of Your Only Begotten and glorifies herself in His holy passions. Regarding her, the prophet has preached beforehand: The sons of unmarried have been multiplied more than the sons of the one who has husband! O Lord, she beseeches You: Overshadow Your right hand upon her. Shatter her enemies with Your mighty hand. By Your might remove and destroy her ill-wishers. Gather together those who are away and protect those who are near. Make her shepherds to rejoice and her priests joyful. Sanctify the deacons and correct all her ranks. Give rest to her departed in Your blessed abodes. We will offer up glory and praise to You *[and to Your Son and to the Holy Spirit)*. Now....

[No 'Etro]

Great and Holy Monday | Third Hour

Prumiyon

Glory to that gracious and holy and ineffable, impassible, immortal and incorruptible, who suffered voluntarily for the salvation of men and took away *(lit: caused to suffer)* our sufferings by His passion and killed the cruel death by His own death for our sake, and granted us life and incorruptibility, immortality and impassibility. We beseech You over this fragrant incense to hold us worthy to suffer in Your passion, that we may be glorified with You, and be crucified to the world, as well as to all its passions. We will offer up glory and thanksgiving to You .... *Now.*

Sedro

Christ our God, the sublime, exalted in His invisible essence, adorable, glorious in His sublime divinity, consubstantial to His Father and to the Holy Spirit, was seen upon earth on account of the salvation of the human race, and He mingled with men by way of dispensation in order to renew His creation, which grew old by the corruption of

death and sin and made accurate those things that were said in a stammering manner in the language of the Law, and altered the stammering of the Old Scripture into the interpretation pleasant to listen. Though He had already performed many good works in the land of Judea, the disobedient people accused Him in all his gracious works. Since He had performed amazing healings and noble miracles, they despised Him without any reason and hated Him with jealousy. The insolent people dared to kill Him wickedly by crucifixion. The ungrateful people thought of ensnaring Him with craft by word. They made evil story against the Law, to ensnare the soul of the Holy One, in order to shed His blood. Therefore, in order to capture Him easily, they asked Him with craft and deceit: 'Is it right to pay poll- tax to Caesar or not?' They were asking as if He could easily be accused by it, for He will be found rebellious against the temporal kingship. Regarding His authority, they asked Him to explain them where is he from the One from whom proceed all authority in heaven and on earth, and the one who is the King of kings and the Lord of lordships, and the one who plaits crowns for the princes. Since He is the Lord of knowledge and the snares are ineffective before Him, He gave answers quietly against their wrath. Against their cunningness He used parables wisely and He retorted to their inquiry and silenced them with their wickedness. But the most wicked did not leave off their cruelty and continued to cry aloud, and complained against the favors and the benefits which were always being granted to them and reckoned them to be evil and hateful things. Therefore, by their jealousy, they spoke against His virtue and continuously gathered together the assemblies of deceit and were looking for a convenient time for the insolent murder. By His grace and patience, He endured the jealousy of the priests, accusations of the scribes, hatred of the Pharisees and the calumny of the wicked and He readily approached the death by crucifixion, that He might redeem all perfectly. We the poor and the wretched have come to celebrate the memory of His redemptive passion. By His grace, we have been held worthy and

prepared for celebrating His noble memory: Over this fragrant incense we offer supplication to His mercy, beseeching Your love for humanity, that by His suffering He might free our souls from all abominable passions of sin, and to grant us to become true confessors of His grace, and we may not be found as blasphemers and faith¬ less. May He hold us worthy to draw near with purity the holy and life-giving participation of His Great Passover and His joyful resurrection. With joy and delight, we will offer up glory and thanksgiving to Him and to His Father...

[No 'Etro]

Great and Holy Monday | Sixth Hour

Prumiyon

Glory to that Good Shepherd who gave Himself for slaughter and redeemed His sheepfold from the devouring wolves, and that Compassionate One who endured from the corrupt and taught the glorifications to the worshippers, and the Free One who subdued Himself to the human privation and accepted insult and death from the wicked and saved the world. There befits him glory...

Sedro

Glory to You, God the Word, who, when humbled Himself remained in Your exalted position; when emptied Himself, remained in Your fullness, and became flesh without abandoning Your spiritual existence; became man without losing Your divinity. Praise to You for You were captured and You did not resist. You were scourged and You did

not cry. You were slapped and You did not mourn. You were insulted, and You did not complain. You were questioned, and You did not respond. You were led like a lamb for slaughter, and You did not speak. They stripped off Your dress and You were not terrified. And they dressed You with a robe and You did not refuse. They nailed You on the cross and You were not angry. They inflicted suffering on You and Your essence did not change. You were crowned with thorns, and You did not forbid. They offered You vinegar, and You did not resist. Glory to Your longsuffering, for You prayed for those who had inflicted all these things upon You, and summoned forgiveness from Your Father. The East saw You and became sad. The West fixed eyes on You and was shaken and other quarters trembled. In the height the Sun saw You and its color changed. The Moon in the sky was terrified and the stars fell down from the firmament and the bodies of the departed were revived. The veil of the temple was torn. The hills and the mountains were cracked. Darkness spread over the face of the earth. Midday was seen to be night. Death was immediately subdued, and the tyranny of the demons was dissolved. Sin was removed and the human race as redeemed. To You, O God, who by Your love, inclined Yourself for this humility for the sake of *(our)* salvation, we beseech over this fragrant incense, entreating Your loving kindness, magnify Your holy name in us. Make us participants in Your passion and in the glory in Your kingdom. Strengthen us to be crucified for the world and all its desires. Make us to be proud of Your glorious crucifixion. Hold us worthy to bear it in our souls always with courage. By its living banner protect us, as it has been given to Your worshippers as the terrible sign. Cause to shine its glorious and divine rays in us. Gladden us with the wine of Your holy love. Bring us to the participation in Your life-giving Pass- over. Prepare us to celebrate Your glorious resurrection with purity. Grant us to rejoice in the forgiveness of our sins, as well as of our faithful departed, that we and they may offer up glory and praise to You and to Your Father...

[NO 'ETRO]

GREAT AND HOLY MONDAY | NINTH HOUR

PRUMIYON

Praise to that Good Shepherd who gave Himself to slaughter and save His sheepfold from the devouring wolves. Who is exalted from all sufferings, and for our sake subjected Himself to suffering in the flesh and by His life-giving sufferings subdued and removed the sinful passions, to Him befits glory and praise and to His Father...

SEDRO

Lord handed over Himself to the sinners, in order to give freedom to the servants of sin. The *(men of)* shadow saw Sun of justice and they seized *(Him),* that the souls of darkness may be lightened. The Judge of judges was judged that we may be liberated from the torments of judgement. The Mightiest was imprisoned that we may escape from the bondage of the mighty one. The Holy One and the One who confers holiness was mocked that we may be rescued from shame and disgrace. The King of kings was insulted in order to grant joy to men. The Magnificent One stripped off His garments, in order to strip off our defilements and sores. One who is clad with flames, put on a robe in order to dress us with honor and glory. The Glorious One suffered dishonor in order to give us honor. The Mighty One feared in order to give us courage. God prayed to accept our prayer. The Compassionate One tasted vinegar and gall to give us sweetness. The Exalted One was crucified to crucify sin. The righteous was counted among the wicked to settle us with the saints. The Impassible One suffered in the flesh to remove sufferings. The Immortal One died in the body to dissolve death. The Resurrection was buried to give life to the departed. To You Christ our God, who endured and suffered all these things for our salvation, we beseech over this fragrant incense, to strengthen us

to leave off all the burdens of the world and its attractions, that we may be crucified with You. Uphold us, that we may put off all passions and desires, and that we may also die with You. Encourage us that all that separate us from Your love shall be buried and destroyed, so that we may be buried with You. As we do these things by Your strength, and accomplish by Your assistance, hold us worthy to live and to rise with You, and be glorified and to receive joy and delight from You. Instead of insult, weariness, and toils here, may we rejoice and be glorified through You with Your Blessed Father in the heavenly kingdom and through Your Holy Spirit, may we exult with Your chosen ones in the mansions of light. Hold us worthy to rejoice in that imperishable joy and to offer You acceptable sacrifices. We will offer up glory and praise to You and to Your Father, and to Your Holy Spirit.

ETRO

Hold us worthy, O Lord God, with pure soul and the incense of the pure manners of life to offer before You prayers and supplications, having put on Your love and wearing Your truth, and crowned with Your friendship. Now Your Church is glorified in Your passion and takes pride in Your crucifixion. Having been adorned with good works, may she enter Your bridal chamber and with one consent, may she worship Your Lordship, our Lord and God, forever.

GREAT AND HOLY TUESDAY | VESPERS / RAMSHO

INTRODUCTORY PRAYER

O Pure and Unblemished Lamb, who was led to the slaughter by the wicked, and was quiet and silent in Your humility and took away the sin of the world by Your sacrifice, make us worthy to put on the likeness of Your passion and worthy of Your life-giving

death; make us worthy to offer You the sound of praise and to rejoice on the day of Your Resurrection, our Lord and our God, forever.

PRUMIYON

Glory to Him who is divinely exalted from every kind of passion, who is His grace, by way of dispensation endured sufferings in the flesh for our salvation, who rightly judges the races and tribes, who was judged for us like a guilty one, by way of the love for humanity, to Him all sacrifices are offered in a saintly manner with His Father and His Holy Spirit, who offered Himself for us as a sacrifice on the top of Golgotha: we supplicate You and we beseech Your humility and entreat Your mercy, to accept from our hands -Your servants, the sinners - this fragrant in¬ cense, for the remission of our debts and the forgiveness of our sins and for the good memory of our departed. Now...

SEDRO

Christ our God, the Ocean of mercies and the immeasurable abyss of compassion, who inclined Himself to the passion on the redemptive cross, who, through His passion and humiliation granted us perfect salvation and prepared incorruptible life for us, as we commemorate His life-giving passion and we glorify His redemptive humiliation and we worship His cross full of all mysteries, with the hymns of the Holy Spirit, with exultation we cry out, saying: This is the redemptive passion which has slain our sufferings by His passion. This is redemptive passion by which we have returned to the Paradise. This is the redemptive passion, which revealed the deceit of Judas Iscariot. This is the redemptive passion of the Judge of the judges in which He was judged as a guilty one. This is the redemptive passion, which led us to the glorious resurrection. This is the redemptive passion which gathered together the holy apostles for the Supper of the Holy Passover. This is the redemptive passion of the righteous and the Lord, in which He received a slap from a servant. This is the redemptive passion, for the

luminaries in the firmament became dark because of Him. This is the redemptive passion, for by its divine grace was granted to the human race. This is the redemptive passion in which the crucifiers gave gall to the Savior and gall to the Giver of life. This is the redemptive passion, in which all the elements of the creation were found shaking. This is the redemptive passion, which brought the faithful to the true harbor of life. This is the redemptive passion prepared for the salvation of the human race. This is the redemptive passion in which the mute natures were shaken when they saw the Creator on the cross. This is the redemptive passion, in which the wolves assaulted the Good Shepherd. This is redemptive passion, for the servants repaid evil to the Lord and the God instead of goodness. This is the redemptive passion in which the One who hears prayers, offered prayer to His Father. This is the redemptive passion in which the hidden and invisible mysteries were revealed. This is the redemptive passion in which the rocks were burst, and the tombs were opened. This is the redemptive passion, in which the glory of the invisible and exalted Father was glorified on the cross. As we weak and sinful, today celebrate the memory of His great passion, beseech His compassion through this fragrant incense and entreat His divine mercies which made Him to incline towards passion and death, to forgive and remit our sins and iniquities and to accept our fast and prayers, and to make to ascend our offerings by His life-giving burial. May we and our faithful departed offer up continuous glory and unceasing praise to Him. Now...

ETRO

Receive O Lord, the incense of Your Church redeemed by Your cross, and be pleased with the censor of Your sheepfold bought by Your blood. Give heed to the supplications of Your flock, which is proud of Your slaughter. Hear the prayer of Your bride, who kisses Your wounds. Keep Your inheritance from every desire that alienates it from You,

that she might suffer in Your suffering and be glorified in Your glory and rejoice in Your resurrection and offer glory and praise to You and to Your Father.

GREAT AND HOLY TUESDAY | COMPLINE / SOUTORO

PRUMIYON

Glory to that Righteous One, who by His justice cursed the Fig tree which did not yield fruits, and fittingly uprooted the congregation that did not utter His praise, and by His grace, planted the Church, the bride whom He had betrothed and by ministering His virtues, she stood in glory at His right hand, confessed gladly and without shame the holy sufferings and by His wounds she was healed from all the sufferings of her father's house . To Him....

SEDRO

You are God who is glorious in Majesty, incomprehensible by thoughts, honorable in the might of magnificence, exalted in the abundance of grace, supreme in the richness of wisdom, wonderful in the beauty of existence, the Maker who adorned the creation with excellent beauty and dressed the universe with the mantle of praise *(priso dteshbuhtho)*, the Creator who fashioned everything in His eternal wisdom and extended heaven in His infinite intelligence. You are *(God)* who with Your Father and the Holy Spirit, gave the Law to Moses, to adorn the adulterous bride, the daughter of Abraham, who was betrothed to You that is the rejected congregation. You gave her the wedding ring and adorned her with fine symbols *(tupse),* parables and the vestments of the tabernacle. You have enjoined her chastity and modesty with a veil that she might remain in dignified manners in the inner chamber of the Law, as a beloved daughter. You have called her the glorious vine in the world. You have cultivated her with the living words of the prophetic sayings. You did build the fence of the holy commandments around it with

diligence and erected a vine press of the sacrifices for purification. You have irrigated it with the fresh clouds of prophets with abundant benevolence and enriched it with the showers of delight. Like an offshoot from the branches. You did separate a scepter of kingship so that by it Your governance shall be perpetuated, and humanity shall be bound by Your loving kindness, and like a shoot from the chosen plant, You took *(it)* for the glory of Your honor. When the impudent despised the covenant of Your witnesses and laws, she killed Your prophets and Your messengers, and loved idolatry. But You O Holy Bridegroom when You saw her manifold disobedience. You came down towards her in Your loving kindness and brought the types and symbols *(roze)* indicated by the ancients in parables to completion and fulfillment. When You entered the city of Jerusalem before the voluntary and redemptive passion by the redemptive cross. You carefully approached the fig tree on the roadside, that is to the ungrateful congregation, and showed that You desire such fruits that are offered with purity, like the fruits plucked from (this tree) for sustenance. When both of them were equally found to be deprived of fruits, one withered and the other was rejected, and expelled from Your Father's house with justice. Therefore, we beseech and supplicate Your wonderful love for humanity, make Your Holy Church, Your betrothed, modest, and blessed, that may offer You always blessed fruits that please Your divinity. Exalt her horn in the four quarters of the world. Adorn the congregation of her sons with all glorious gifts, that she may offer glory and thanksgiving to You and to Your Father....

[No 'Etro]

Great and Holy Tuesday | Night / Lilyo: First Qaumo

Introductory Prayer

Awaken us, Lord, from our sleep in the sloth of sin that we may praise your watchfulness, You who watch and do not sleep; give life to our death in the sleep of death and corruption, that we may adore Your compassion, You who live and do not die; grant us in the glorious company of the angels who praise You in heaven, to praise You and bless you in holiness, because You are praised and blessed in heaven and on earth, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and always and forever.

Prumiyon

May we be held worthy of offering ineffable praises and indivisible glories to the Savior who made His cross a powerful weapon for His sheepfold, and gave it as a shield of salvation for His inheritance, and by it exalted the horn of His Church, and by it guarded the sheep of His flock, and by it put to shame the people who renounced Him, and gladdened the people who believed in Him To Him befits....

Sedro

Christ, our God, Only Begotten Son, the Word of the Father, the icon, and the immutable character of His Begetter, who because of Your abundant grace, had compassion on Your creation which was perished, and descended for our salvation, by Your will united Himself with our passible body in the virgin womb. You experienced our sufferings in order to remove our sufferings by Your passion. You did experience the death like everyone, and gave life to everyone, by Your death in order that the living and the dead might have salvation. You have transformed death into life and suffering into impassibility. Even though You are God by nature. You united Yourself with our weak flesh. When You drew near to the passion, You received insult from the Jews. The natures were shaken and terrified, and the elements trembled, for being unable to endure the humiliation of their Creator. Therefore, the Sun covered its rays when it saw You being suspended on the cross, in order that the hard and the un-repenting heart of

Your crucifiers -who did not wish to recognize their Lord and Savior - shall be ashamed. Rocks were burst open, and the curtain *(of the temple)* was torn asunder. The earth quaked and Judas hung himself. The dead rose foreshowing the truth of the resurrection. They cried out that He is indeed God. The centurion cried out that he is indeed the Son of God. The robber offered praise. By the separation of Your soul from Your body. You had shown the voluntary death. While the divinity did not depart at all afar from the body nor from the soul -but both were united- you experienced our death. It was neither Yours, nor for Your sake. You did entrust the souls of us all to the Father, saying: 'My Father, I commit my spirit into Your hands'. By Your descent into Sheol, You preached the Good News to the imprisoned and the captives, saying: Come out captives, and those who are imprisoned in darkness, come forth and be enlightened'. Having considered these wonders and mighty works that You have done and brought out for us, O Lord, we glorify and say: There is no other great and wonderful thing like this, that You called and raised the creation - and You were hung on the cross and You participated in our sufferings, and involved *(teth'arzal)* in death and made us new creation and raised us to immortality and sowed in us the hope of revival and resurrection. Therefore we beseech You through this fragrant incense, hold us all worthy to bear Your cross and to imitate Your passion, bringing all the passions and the desires of the flesh to be buried with You, burying and covering our anger and injurious desire and gain imperishable life from You and dwell forever in the tents of light with the joy of *(our)* Lord's resurrection, in Your glory and exaltation and of Your blessed Father, and of the Holy, Good, adorable Spirit, who is consubstantial to You. Now.

[No 'Etro]

Great and Holy Tuesday | Night / Lilyo: Second Qaumo

PRUMIYON

The One who is glorified in the might of His magnificence, and adorable in the greatness of His humility, exalted from everything in His glory, in His love humbled Himself than everyone, who is perfect in His salvation, the same Only begotten in His exaltation, who holds all by the power of His word, and was seized because He consented by His compassion, that glorious one who makes all joyful by His revelation and strengthened all by His passion. To Him befits....

SEDRO

Christ our God, who in His person, fulfilled all the mysteries and fulfilled exactly those things that were said in the language of the Law and removed the Old Scripture, the great peace which pulled down the fence in the middle and abolished the enmity of the commandment by His law, and brought in to perfection as the New man both those who were from the circumcision and those who were outside the Law, the patient one, against whom the troubled sea of the scribes agitated, while the deluge of the priests strongly rose against Him, the spring upon whom the bitterness of the serpent burnt forth, to capture *(Him)* by jealousy, when He was prepared to bruise the basilisk *(hermono)* by the foot of His cross, the Mighty One who gave Himself to be seized and lowered His height and was held. Since he was pleased to take body and to be captured and since He descended and took flesh. He was scourged. Golgotha received the Great One, for He was born from a womb. Since the womb contained Him, the tomb contained Him. The Compassionate One accepted suffering for our sake without murmuring and endured the cross without resentment. The Living One was found dead since He was pleased to take flesh. He was buried since He became like us. The One who gives life to the dead became one among the dead by His compassion, while preserving in Him the life of His qnuma. The salt hid its property in poverty and concealed His divinity by His

humanity. The Wonder whom the authorities saw and did not recognize, and put the demons to shame by His humility, and ashamed the rulers by his infirmity, and banished the wise by His contempt, and it caused disputation among the disputants, and wise were held by Him, and they tried to expound Him and He was not expounded, and they made attempts to investigate about Him and was not investigated. To You, O incomprehensible God, we offer up this fragrant incense: visit Your Holy Church saved by Your life-giving blood, with the diligence of Your love for humanity. Remove schisms and controversies from her. Suppress the pride of the gentiles who went astray. Destroy quickly the rise of heresies. Be an avenger for Your inheritance redeemed with Your holy blood. Establish true faith in all churches and monasteries, and hold us all worthy of Your kingdom, and make us Your children of light, for You are compassionate and abundantly gracious. To You we offer up glory and praise and through You and with You, to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit. Now...

Etro

Jesus Christ, the Living Lamb of God, and the high priest of our religion, who emptied Yourself and took the likeness of a servant and truly became man. You did not change at all from Your state of being God. By Your abundant mercies, grant us, through this fragrant incense which we offer before You, that may we become participants in Your passion and imitate Your humility and rejoice in Your heavenly kingdom with all Your saints. We will offer glory and praise to You and to Your Father...

Great and Holy Tuesday | Night / Lilyo: Third Qaumo

Prumiyon

The Exalted Word was sent by the Father to perfect the mysteries of the seers in His person, and to fulfill their words by the sacrifice of His body for the salvation of His

creation. The Only Begotten Son of God, whom Abraham depicted His images and Isaac represented His sacrifice on the wood and showed him His day and they rejoiced in His salvation. To Him befits....

SEDRO

God the Word, Son of the invisible Father, uncreated and incomprehensible, who for the salvation of the creation which was bound and tied by the fetter of the transgression of the commandment, joined with the flesh hypostatically and naturally, and You were bodily born from the Virgin, the daughter of David. Being God, You became man without change. In human manner You were called the 'Son of David' and the 'Son of Abraham'. When You were pleased to show the Jews that You were the God of Abraham and the Lord of David, You told them: 'Abraham Your father earnestly desired to see My day and he saw and rejoiced'. 'I exist even before Abraham was (born)'. 'David said: Lord told my Lord: sit at my right hand', and 'If I am his son, how can he call me Lord?'. In Your mystery -who came (down) to fulfill the will of the Father - Isaac was led by his father to be sacrificed like a lamb. In Your mystery, Isaac rode on a donkey, as You *(rode)* on a colt, when You entered Jerusalem for being sacrificed. In Your mystery, Isaac carried wood and went up the mountain, as You carried the wood, on which You were crucified, and went up to Golgotha. In Your mystery, Isaac asked his father where the lamb was, as You asked Your Father: 'If possible, remove this cup!'. In Your mystery, Isaac built the altar with his father, as You established the foundation of the earth with Your Father. In Your mystery, Isaac was bound as he remained silent, and was placed on the wood, as You were nailed on the wood while You remained silent. In Your mystery, a lamb was seen on a tree and at right time it was found and was sacrificed instead of him, and he was saved. Likewise, my Lord, in prophecy, You were called the Lamb and the First-born from a prophetess *(nbitho)*, that is a Virgin, and for our

salvation, You came to the world, and were sacrificed for the entire world, and liberated it from the bond of error and sin by Your passion and death. O Lord, how Abraham rejoiced in Your mystery and in the salvation of Isaac, and Sarah in seeing her son, thus Your Father rejoiced in the salvation of the world and Your mother in Your resurrection. O Lord, loose and liberate us also from the bond of sin and redeem us from second death. Gladden us in Your great day. Make us to rejoice in Your divine vision and exalt and make us to ascend to the bosom of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. And make us and our departed to rejoice with them, and we will offer up glory and thanksgiving to You and to Your Father.

ETRO

God the Word, who, by His mystery, rejoiced Abraham and redeemed Isaac from slaughter and by Your sacrifice on Golgotha, You delivered the world from death and the corruption of sin, and became for us a fragrant incense to Your Father for (His) reconciliation. Make us also to rejoice by Your grace here in this world by the deliverance from the evil one, and in the coming world, receive us with peaceful face in the day of resurrection. May we rejoice with lambs of Your right-hand side in Your kingdom, O Christ who suffered in the flesh for us. We will offer up glory and praise to You and to Your Father....

GREAT AND HOLY TUESDAY | NIGHT / LILYO: FOURTH QAUMO

PRUMIYON

Glory to that sublime and exalted in His essence, who is extolled by the heavenly hosts above and *(here)* below despised and insulted by the Jews -who deny grace- the Blessed One, blessed by the Cherubim with eloquent wheels, and unjustly accused by the priests of the People, the Holy One, who sanctifies all, who is shamelessly blasphemed by the scribes and the Pharisees with impiety, and sanctified in threefold manner by the Holy Seraphim. To Him befits...

Sedro

The Good Lord who came to fulfill in His person the figures *(tupse)* indicated by the prophets, and became the sacrifice and absolved the world by the pouring of His life-giving blood, the Redeemer who, for us offered the sacrifice to His Begetter, and acquired salvation for us by His compassion, the Exalted One who indicated birth and death by the Lamb from the tree, which was offered as a sacrifice in the place of Isaac, and by these things performed there *(on the mountain of Moriah)* and showed Abraham the day of his passion and the glory of his resurrection, the Simple One who was held *(by hands)* because He became 'composed *(ethrakeb)*, and abused by the evil because He took flesh. The shadows fought against the luminaries, because He humbled Himself and He was imprisoned because He came down. The evil doers stripped off the fair one and He was not exposed and by the stripping off of His flesh, exposed the prince of iniquity without being contemptible, the Mighty one who holds the creation with His gesture -because He is God - carried the cross, and caused suffering to the suffering by His passion, -because He did not change. The Living One drank the chalice of death, for He became one among us, and He killed death by His death, for He was equal to His Father. The Exalted One descended to Sheol like a dead, and as the Living One, destroyed its fortifications. To You O God, who by Your incomprehensible love inclined Yourself to this humiliation, we offer this fragrant incense. By Your love for humanity,

be pleased and accept it from our feeble hands, and strengthen us to keep Your commandments and to drive away every thought of pride that rise against truth, through the name inscribed within the veils of Your holiness, at whose hearing Sheol is alarmed and the abyss is torn, and the enemy is trampled, and evil spirits are expelled. Hold us worthy, by faith to chase away disobedience and to blot out wrath and to humble pride and to destroy every nature that generates evil, and to possess pure and non-perverted mind, and with virtuous manners, to reach the end which is pleasing to

You. To You we will offer up glory and thanksgiving and to Your Father....

[No 'Etro]

Great and Holy Tuesday | Matins / Sapro

Introductory Prayer

Remove, O Lord, the darkening cover of disgraceful passions of sin from the hearts and thoughts of your worshippers, by the help of Your Passion, O Christ our God! Make us worthy, by participating in Your Passion, to rejoice with You on the day of Your Resurrection. We will offer up glory and praise to You, and to Your Father, and to Your Holy Spirit. Now and always, forever, and ever. Amin.

Prumiyon

Glory to Him, who came down for us and remained in His sublimity, the Perfect One who emptied Himself for our salvation, without being departed from His fullness, that Simple One, who became composed and remained in His spiritual nature, when appeared composed *(mrakbo),* that God who became incarnate and remained in His divinity, when He showed Himself to be man, that Living One, who was crucified in the flesh, without being departed from His essence. that immortal One who died in the body without being separated from His glory. To Him befits....

Sedro

Christ, our God, who is exalted from suffering in His sublime existence, the one who knows the hidden things and the judge of the things that are manifest, before the redemptive and life-giving passion made known to His holy apostles regarding the mystery of His life-giving passion, saying to them: 'Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem and the Son of man will be handed over to the hands of wicked men, and they will beat Him and crucify Him on the third day He will rise. Therefore, we acknowledge You as God, and You, being impassible by Your nature, suffered for us in the flesh to redeem us from every passion of sin. And with spiritual hymns, we worship You and confess, saying: This is the Lamb of God who was led like am lamb for slaughter, and like an ewe, remained silent before a shearer, at the time of His crucifixion. This is the Lamb of God who was insulted and beaten in the house of Caiaphas. This is the Lamb of God, who revealed the deceit of Judas Iscariot. This is the Lamb of God whom the wicked judged and condemned without fault. This is the Lamb of God in whom the thief on the right hand believed. This is the Lamb of God, who granted the pledge of life to His Church. This is the Lamb of God, at the time of whose passion, the earth moved and was shaken. This is the Lamb of God whom, when the Sun saw naked, it became dark. This is the Lamb of God at the moment of whose crucifixion, mountains, hills and rocks were torn. This is the living Lamb of God, to whom the wicked gave bitterness as His food, and gall to drink for His thirst. This is the Living Lamb of God on whose head the insolent placed the crown of thorns to insult Him. This is Lamb of God whom the wife of Pilate confirmed through a dream that He is God. This is the Living Lamb of God, who endured mocking and insult for Adam who was condemned. This is the Living Lamb of God, at the time of whose slaughter, the earth trembled and was shaken. This is the Living Lamb of God, who endured for us dishonor and mocking from ungrateful people. This is the Living Lamb of God, whom the high priest's servant insolently

slapped on His check. This is the Living Lamb of God, who did not turn His face from insult and spitting. This is the Living Lamb of God, who entrusted His spirit and placed it in the hands of His glorious Father. This is the Living Lamb of God at whose voice, those who have fallen asleep, woke up and worshipped Him. This is the Living Lamb of God who had broken the brass *(nahasho)* doors, as He entered Sheol and gladdened the just by visiting them in their abodes. Therefore, we beseech and supplicate Your benevolence, O Merciful Lord, by Your redemptive passions which You had endured for us, have pity on us, who call upon You. Have mercy upon us, who entreat Your mercies. Be the helper and house of refuge for us. Hold us worthy and our departed who believed in Your sufferings and confessed Your cross to stand at Your right-hand side and to see Your compassion. We will offer up glory and praise to You and to Your Father.

ETRO

The Myron that was poured out and the fine Nard which removed the worldly foulness, by His Life-giving sacrifice on the top of Golgotha, and filled the Universe with its fragrance, the wise Gardner, be pleased in this incense offered from our feeble hands before Your Shechinah. Receive with pleasure and absolve Your churches all over the world. Grant forgiveness to all who call upon Your name. We will offer up glory and praise to You and to Your Father...

GREAT AND HOLY TUESDAY | THIRD HOUR

PRUMIYON

Glory to that Just and Righteous one, who had scattered His crucifiers by His justice, and by His grace gathered together His worshippers and the wise who treated the mighty with feebleness and pride with humility, and skillfully subdued the pride of the

authorities and overturned the thrones of the lords with weakness, and made the philosophy of the wise to appear foolish by simplicity and broken the ships of Tarsus by intense wind, which blew from the humility of His adorable cross, and rent the sail of the ships of the wicked by the justice of His holy and redemptive passion. To Him befits...

Sedro

God, Mighty and Omnipotent, the Living Word of the Living and Blessed Father, the Source of helps and the Giver of salvation to human nature, who is exalted from every knowledge, understanding and definition of the profane in the indivisibility of His sublime divinity, when He saw His image subdued by the passions of sin and voluntarily tied up in the snare of sin and Satan, You were compelled by Your eternal mercies which remain forever. You did join together with body and rational soul, and You became perfect man, without change or alteration, while remaining God in Your inscrutable invisibility. You did suffer all human and blameless things voluntarily, in order to confer divinity to man, and You liberated him from abominable passions with which he was struck. You prepared Yourself and became ready for the passion on the cross, in order to cause suffering to those who caused suffering to us, and to liberate us from evil passions by Your redeeming passion and to make us impassible. Therefore, we beseech You, O Lord, by Your redeeming passion itself restore us and heal us. Make us invincible to sin. Set us free from all abominable and destructive passions of the rebellious accuser, shattering speedily his cruel authority under our feet by the power of the adorable cross. And in the present life, make us triumphant by the pride of Your redemptive passions, and there glorify us, by Your divine blessedness. Deliver us from everything which resists our salvation. Make the paths of our mind straight without error because of Your adorable passions. May we be enlightened by You, for You are the

impassible God in Your essence. Renew every day Your salvation is us. Prepare us for participating in Your Passover and glorious resurrection, which You give perfectly in Your kingdom to Your worshippers. By Your compassion, keep Your Church, and liberate its leaders from every reprehensible way. Make us here to offer You glory in the feasts of our salvation and there to shout praises to You with the heavenly multitudes and the choirs of the saints, O Living, and Impassible Son, who redeemed us by Your passion, and to Your glorious Father who desired our salvation and to Your Holy Spirit who perfects and sanctifies our souls. Now...

ETRO

Enlighten O Lord, our minds by the light of the Gospel of Your grace. Establish our souls in the love of Your cross. Keep our thoughts by the blessedness of Your friendship. Awaken our hearts for the praise of Your glory. Exhale is us the fragrance of the manners that pleases You. Receive our incense for the reconciliation of Your loving kindness, and of Your Father.

GREAT AND HOLY TUESDAY | SIXTH HOUR

PRUMIYON

To that Exalted High Priest who offered Himself as a holy sacrifice for the pardon of our sins and redeemed us by the passion of His amazing humility and healed the first wound of the tree - *(wound)* of the transgression of the commandment-by the wood of the cross, and gave *(us)* the sweet and life-giving flavor *(t'emtho),* instead of the bitter and mortal flavor. To Him befits...

SEDRO

God the Maker and the Creator of all, who possess immortality, for our salvation. You came down to passion and death, by Your abundant love and good pleasure, so that by

Your sufferings our passions might be removed, and our mortality might be killed by Your death. From the Jewish people. You endured insult, reproach and mocking. As You are the Judge of all. You stood before the Governor Pilate and You were questioned like a condemned. You were handed over to death like an evil doer, while You are blessed and seated on the back *(haso)* of Cherubim in the heights. You were suspended on the redemptive cross. While the angels cover their faces before Your flame. You were nailed on the cross. At midday You made the Sun dark and sanctified the air by extending Your hands. You have attracted all to Your worship and of Your Father and the Holy Spirit. With Your fragrance You did perfume the air which was stinking with the foulness of the burnt offerings. By Your shouting on the wood. You did rent the veil of the temple. You did shake the earth, rent the rocks, opened the tombs, killed Sa¬ tan and preached life and incorruptibility to those who were buried. They rose from their tombs and admonished the truth of Your resurrection. Therefore, on the day of the memorial of Your passion, we beseech Your grace and Your eternal mercies, which were poured upon our weak and sinful race: make us impassible and invincible. Liberate us from all shameful and abominable passions and equip us with Your divine power to be able to stand against all the burning arrows of the evil one, and the snares of sin, and by You to win victory over every sort of the works of the enemy, and in the last day of Your coming, may we not be ashamed with those who have renounced You and mocked at Your dispensation. May we not be tormented with those who have ridiculed Your innocent sufferings. May we not be consumed up by fire with those who had cruelly crucified You on the wood. May we not pry *(nmush)* in darkness with those who spat on Your face and struck You with rod. Do not give us misery with those who blasphemed against You saying: 'If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross and we shall believe in You!' Do not hand us over to mourning and gnashing of teeth with those who put out their lips and wagging their heads, saying:' Oh! Our eyes have seen him!' Oh, O

Merciful One, have pity and mercy upon us at that moment full of fear. Redeem all of us - your servants - who, now, prostrate ourselves before You and venerate Your sufferings. We take pride in Your cross and we embrace and kiss Your wounds and glorify in Your salvation. Wipe out all our iniquities and shelter us under the shadow of Your victorious cross. Introduce us with You, O heavenly Bridegroom, into Your eternal kingdom. We will offer up glory and praise to You and to Your Father....

[No 'Etro]

Great and Holy Tuesday| Ninth Hour

Prumiyon

To the One who is impassible in His essence, who came to voluntary passion by His incarnation to make us impassible and immortal and by His sufferings torn away the deed of our debts, and granted impassibility to our mortal race and made peace among those who are above and below by His holy sufferings. To Him befits....

Sedro

O God the Word, who is able to praise You fittingly for Your grace towards us! You came down for passion and voluntary death, in order to make us impassible. Truly You became man in order to make us sons of God. When You saw our race that it was severely harassed by the rebellious accuser. You came down to passions, death and cross and redeemed it. But the prophets and the just *(saw)* beforehand Your coming down with the eyes of their minds and predicted it, and they prefigured Your slaughter and sacrifice because of the guilt of Adam. One of them, through his blood which was shed, indicated Your blood that was shed for the salvation of the world. Another one bound his son on the altar in order to typify Your oblation - You who are the living Lamb of God. Another, by His descent into Egypt, represented Your way. Another one indicated

Your slaughter by a lamb which was slain. Another one showed You through sacrifices and drink offerings of the world. Another prophesied that Messiah will come and will be killed in Jerusalem, and he will destroy it. Another one represented the sacrifice of Your person in the end of the times by a lamb sacrificed in the evening. Another one indicated the victory of Your venerable cross by the raised lance. Another one prophesied about Your voluntary passion for us *(saying):* 'I am prepared for the passion7. Another one said: 'Truly he endured our sufferings and bore our infirmities'. Another asked: 'Why are Your garments red and Your body *(qnumo)* is wet with blood?' Another recalled Your life-giving death between the thieves, *(saying):* 'He handed over himself for death and he was counted with the wicked'. One preached about the spitting which You received on Your face from the wicked and the scourging with which You have endured, *(saying):* 'I gave my body for blows and my face for beating; I did not turn my face from shame and spitting!' Another one announced that You will lose the imprisoned by the blood of Your covenant. With his parable, Isaiah, the glorious among the prophets, indicated Your grace which passes over to Your people whom You have chosen from the gentiles. Jonah who ran away from You also represented it. Foreseeing Your humility and silence, Isaiah said: 'Like a lamb for slaughter, he was led, and like an ewe before the shearer he remained silent. Again, David openly cried out:' they pierced my hands and feet'. Zachariah said: the Shepherd will be struck, and his lambs will be scattered'. But O Lord, You fulfilled the words of the prophets. Today You came to the vineyard seeking fruits, as Isaiah had represented beforehand. But the servants, who killed and reviled the prophets, stood, and handed You over to death and cross-You who were the Lord of the prophets and God of all. Therefore, according to the word of the prophets You have destroyed the vineyard and pulled down the tower in it and broke down the fence, and instead of Sion, You have planted the Holy Church which bears holy fruits. Therefore, we, the children of the Holy Church, beseech You, guard us

from the evil and all his snares and desires. Grant us, her children, to suffer in Your passion and to rejoice in Your bridal chamber and to be proud of Your cross, and to delight in Your kingdom, and instead of the insult of the Jewish people, may we offer praise which pleases You. Grant us to labor in Your spiritual vineyard with purity and holiness. Increase stable quietness and abundant peace for us, so that Your holy name shall be exalted in us. Hold us worthy to come with purity for the joyous feast of Your resurrection and we will offer glory and praise to You and to Your Father.

Etro

The impassible one who suffered for us in the flesh, who, with sweet odor of His innocent sufferings, have removed the foul smell of the passions of sin, now also, through this fragrant incense which we offer before You for the memory of Your redemptive passions for us, remove all the destructive passions from our members. Grant our souls the fragrance of noble manners that pleases You. For You are the censer of absolution and the incense of salvation and the sweet odor that breathes in the souls of Your worshippers, our Lord, and our God, forever.

Great and Holy Wednesday | Vespers / Ramsho

[Again Wednesday of (z'azvo) shaking]

Introductory Prayer

Make us worthy, O Lord God, that with the elements and the natures which were moved and shaken on this day, we may fear and be moved by Your judgments. Make to dwell in us the fear of the last day. Do not count us with those who crucified You. But confess us, for we have confessed You and Your redeeming passions. Deliver us from the torments that are kept for the evil doers. We will offer up glory and thanksgiving to You and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit, now and always, forever, and ever. Amin.

PRUMIYON

To Him who is honorable in praises and exalted in Magnificence, who appeared in creation without beauty and splendor, and seen contemptible and humble on earth, the one who is exalted from sufferings and remote from pains, who lowered Himself from His place to bear our sufferings and to endure our pains, to that just and upright, who by His justice scattered His crucifiers, and by His grace gathered together His worshippers. To Him befits...

SEDRO

Lord God, Powerful and Omnipotent, Living Word of the Living and Blessed Father, the source of helps and the one who grants incorruptibility, who is beyond every knowledge and understanding, who is the limit of the creation in the hiddenness of His exalted divinity, when You saw Your image being tormented with sin, and voluntarily entangled in the snares of Satan, You had pity on him and rationally united with flesh and soul and You became perfect man without change and remained in Your divinity. You walked on earth and limited Yourself under time, while being non-temporal and beyond time, ineffable marvel, and unutterable wonder. You dwelt in the world in order that many might be astonished, and the kings might shut their mouths, for they have seen in You divine and human things: wonders and sufferings, humility and exaltation, weakness and might. From You, the Way of Life *(huphoko),* miracles appeared and from Your humility. Your praises sprang up. By these things You brought amazement to the rulers. They did not recognize You and they did not believe Your testimony. Fire and water remain above from the nature, that by them the philosophy of the world might be confused. You were qualified as the banished reed which came to support the creation and You were called the dim lamp which illuminates the world that became dark. You

were called the disfigured among men, in order to restore us to our former beauty. You were named despised and lowly, in order to confer honor and exaltation to us. You met with our sins in order to give us perfect forgiveness. Truly You did endure our sufferings and bear our pains, so that by Your wounds we may be healed, and by Your infirmity we may be made whole. You are beyond sufferings and distant from pains and infirmities and have never committed *(any)* sin, nor deceit was ever found in You. But You were pleased, and You humbled Yourself and suffered and received upon You sins and pains of the head of our race. Therefore, evil was spoken against You. Your story was distorted and *(You were)* slandered. In the end of the entire divine dispensation. You were ready for the slaughter for our sins and prepared for the vivifying death of our mortality. You possessed ineffable humility on account of our iniquity. You did show unlimited gentleness against our anger. You prepared Yourself for a great battle for us, with great humility and without opening the mouth. Like a lamb. You were led for slaughter and like a sheep before the shearer. You remained silent. You did not run away from prison and tribunal to endure these things which are indicated about You in the prophecy. You did not turn back nor defended Yourself, but You gave Your body for stripes, and left Your cheek for beating and Your face for spit. You did not turn Your face away from shame and You gave up Your hands and feet for the piercing with nails. You left Your side for spear, and Your garment for being divided by lots and Your mouth for tasting vinegar and gall. With all these things You were hung on the cross of contempt and You were numbered among evil doers. You were mocked by all those who saw You and You were insulted by all those who were around You. You gave Yourself for death and You divided the spoil among the mighty. You brought back many gentiles, and the will of Your Father was fulfilled in You. Then You revealed Your mystery to the disciples, and made known to Your apostles what was going to happen, so that they should not be agitated at the time of Your passion, nor they should be

offended at the time of Your crucifixion. Therefore, we beseech You, Christ our God, through this fragrant incense, remove from us every unbearable grief and every suffering that injures the soul, and miserably alienates from You. Bestow us praiseworthy passion for our sins and amazing grief of our iniquities, making perfect repentance that never turns back, and which always brings us near to Your harbor. With purity and holiness, we will offer up glory and thanksgiving to You and to Your Father...

ETRO

The Exalted One who abased Himself for us and became man like us, and endured passions for our salvation, hear our prayers and supplications and accept this incense from our feebleness. By it, enlighten the eyes of our intellects with the light of Your praises. Strengthen all of us for the observance of Your lifegiving commandments. Equip our hands for the works of virtues; strengthen our walks according to Your word. Guard our thoughts with Your memory and our lips and tongues with the words of Your praises. Sanctify all of us with Your truth, our Lord and God, forever. Amen.

GREAT AND HOLY WEDNESDAY | COMPLINE / SOUTORO

PRUMIYON

Glory to that just who uprooted the 'ungrateful vine' that did not yield fruit, to that Righteous One who cursed the plant which produced husks, and broke its fence and made it to be trampled by all, and allowed thorns to sprout (in it), and left it to be grazed by swine, and in its place chose the Church of the gentiles as the new plant, and watered its furrows with the cross that it may grow and to give Him fruits of praise, and offer Him gifts of thanksgiving. To Him befits...

SEDRO

Glory to You and praise to You, the Planter of the glorious Eden. By Your adorable cross, You made to grow life giving fruits for You, and planted Your Holy Church the spiritual vineyard for You. And You built and erected in it the great tower of salvation and opened a mystical spring in it. And You gave abundant streams which make it pleasant, that fruits might grow and increase gentle showers that its vegetation may grow. You made to grow good grapes of faith instead of rejected husks of impiety, and sweet fruits of thanksgiving, instead of bitter fruit *(lit: complaint of blasphemy.)* You made to spring up glorious gifts of praises in it, instead of the insult and disgrace of crucifixion, and the true victory of the cross. To You Lord, our God, who demonstrated this diligence for our salvation, we beseech over this fragrant incense, imploring Your abundant mercies: Make us diligent labourers of Your kingdom, and merchants who seek Your riches, and glorious vine in Your vineyard, and blessed seed in Your field, and fine grains of wheat in Your store houses and beloved plants in Your court yards of Your holiness, and fattened lambs on the meadows of Your kingdom, and chosen pearls on the crowns of Your glory, and high palm trees in Your garden, and beautiful Cedars near the streams of Your teaching, and glorious Cypress on the mountains of Your Church, and like glorious olive tree in the house of Your honor, and glorious vine in the garden of Your Majesty, and diligent husbandmen who labor in Your vineyard, cleansed for Your dwelling and pure temple for the honor of Your glory, and noble altars for the dwelling of Your Essence, and sincere sanctifiers for the Shekinah of Your greatness, and honest invitees for the Kingdom of Your Lordship and worthy guests for Your banquet, and pure best-men for the marriage feast of Your Lordship. There we will unceasingly offer up glory and thanksgiving to You and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit. Now....

[NO 'ETRO]

GREAT AND HOLY WEDNESDAY | NIGHT / LILYO: FIRST QAUMO

INTRODUCTORY PRAYER

Awaken us, Lord, from our sleep in the sloth of sin that we may praise your watchfulness, You who watch and do not sleep; give life to our death in the sleep of death and corruption, that we may adore Your compassion, You who live and do not die; grant us in the glorious company of the angels who praise You in heaven, to praise You and bless you in holiness, because You are praised and blessed in heaven and on earth, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and always and forever.

PRUMIYON

The One who knows the secrets, that Judge of the thoughts, the Examiner of hearts, the Revealer of the unknown things, who before His holy and voluntary passion revealed His mystery to His chosen and holy disciples, and informed them about His salvific cross and the deceit of the fraudulent disciple, and the treachery of the deceiver, and revealed to them the time of His life-giving death, and foretold them the time of His glorious resurrection, and the day of His glorious revelation, and the moment of His amazing manifestation, to Him befits...

SEDRO

Glory to You and thanksgiving to You, Christ our God, who are impassible and immortal, and by nature You possess impassibility and immortality. In Your love. You became man and condescended to suffer voluntary passions. And through Your sufferings You brought about innocence and impassibility for the human race. By the

passions of Your Person *(qnumok),* You caused the passions to suffer. To the beloved and noble company of Your disciples You did indicate these things beforehand *(saying),* behold, all the mysteries and parables had already been perfected in the mystical supper, fulfilling the Lamb, that was indicated through Moses. By telling them, 'One of you will betray me'. You unmasked the deceit of the treacherous and fraudulent apostle. Being the Judge of the judges and the King of the kings, and the Lord of the lords, and the Ruler of all, like a lamb for slaughter. You were taken to Pilate the Judge, and You remained silent like a sheep before the shearer. You stood in the tribunal like a man, and You were questioned like an ordinary man. You were beaten on the check by the servants, and You set the servants of sin free. You were suspended on the wood of the cross and raised us to the height above. You were made to drink gall and vinegar, that we may drink the cup of life. Nails were thrust into Your hands, and our hands were made holy. Your side was pierced with lance, and You made the lance of the Cherub blunt. You died on the cross and killed our cruel death. Therefore we know truly that You are the God of our salvation and we beseech You to hold us worthy that we may suffer in Your passions with purity and holiness and with broken heart and with humble spirit, so that we may be glorified and be crucified with You to the world and from all its passions and delights, and the world may be crucified for us and the pleasures of the old man may die in us, and we may live in You, who is the true life. (*Again)* we beseech and supplicate *(You)* to make us strangers to sin and participants in that mystical banquet and make us new from the old. Dress us with Your light and invite us to Your resurrection with joy and in the heavenly tents, may we sing praises to You and to Your Father - who is impassible - who sent You for our salvation and Your Holy Spirit, who is Holy, Giver of Life and con-substantial to You. Now...

ETRO

The Redeemer and the Guardian of the faithful who voluntarily came for passion, and was raised on the cross, and incited the creation for His worship, according to His true promise, receive this fragrant incense that we offer to You on this day of Your redeeming passion. Bless and guard our congregation, by Your adorable and glorious cross. Protect us under the wings of Your grace, so that we may glorify You and Your Father...

GREAT AND HOLY WEDNESDAY | NIGHT / LILYO: SECOND QAUMO

PROMIOUN

Praise to that Redeemer, whose coming, the prophets foretold and the righteous represented the salvation, and the saints revealed the victory, the just indicated the humility, and the righteous informed the passion, the seers preached the crucifixion, to Him befits...

SEDRO

Christ our God, who by Your will and of the inscrutable Father and of the Holy Spirit united the flesh consubstantial to us, with Your divine hypostasis *(qnumo)*. By Your salvific dispensation. You granted perfect salvation to our guilt -of men. You mingled with us like *(one among)* us, except sin, while truly remaining in Your divinity. You gave freedom to our nature and true and unswerving familiarity, like the Omnipotent Maker and Creator. By the completion of Your divine dispensation. You came for Passion, and fulfilled the fight which is beyond this world. You have taught us true victory by Your glory. You had bruised the mortal fruit which was lying hidden is us. On account of our iniquities, on the cross You received humiliation, disgrace and insult and vinegar and the crown of thorn. Again, You were numbered with the robbers. In Your person You did fulfill all those things that the holy prophets preached about You. One of them indicated the type of Your amazing passion in the passions that You endured without

complaint. Through the bindings of the beloved son upon the altar, another declared Your humility upon the wood. By the lamb that was slain, another represented the slaughter of your person in the end of time. In the victory gained by the raised lance, another announced Your victory on the cross. Another prophesied Your voluntary passion which had taken place for us, by saying, T am prepared for suffering'. Another said: Truly You endured our sufferings and bore our pains. One proclaimed in Babel that Christ the King will be killed, and Jerusalem will be laid waste by His murder. Another explained that You are offered as a sacrifice for our sins and for our iniquities. Another asked: 'Why are Your garments red, and Your body is wet with blood?'. Another announced that by Your blood of the covenant. You will loose those who are bound in the waterless pit, that is the Sheol. Therefore we beseech Your love for humanity, O Merciful Lord, through this fragrant incense and through Your redeeming and life-giving passions, to grant us uprightness, purity and holiness of the soul and the body as well as mercies, absolution and forgiveness of sins. For You are the God of our salvation, and we offer up praise and thanksgiving to You and to Your Father who is impassible and Blessed, and to Your Holy Spirit, who is Holy, Life-giving, and Con-substantial to You. Now...

Etro

The Exalted One who humbled Himself in order to give us excellent example by His resurrection, O Lord, receive the incense that we offer before You. Hold us worthy to wash away the hidden defilement of sin from the hidden members of our souls, and may we become pure and without fault, and may we be held worthy to rejoice in Your glorious resurrection and to sing pure hymns to You and to Your Father...

Great and Holy Wednesday | Night / Lilyo: Third Qaumo

PRUMIYON

Glory to the One who grants divine helps to our race, and gives heavenly gifts to our community, to that Good and Just who gave us the new well hewed out with the lance on Golgotha and by His cross opened the mystical spring from His lordly side to Him befits....

SEDRO

Christ our God, the Maker, and the Creator of all. Savior and Redeemer of all, who by Your love for humanity and grace and by abundant compassion, and very much beautifully brought us into existence. Because of our transgression of the commandment and iniquity, we lowered ourselves for the dissolution of our creation and dissipation of our portions. By Your abundant mercies. You distributed renewal much elevated from our oldness. By Your immeasurable pity. You devised exalted plans for us. Hence forward by the images of the seers and the prophets, You spoke to us partially so that by them You might inform us what is to be revealed in the world at the end by Your incarnation. Again, regarding this, Jacob the head of the patriarchs prefigured by means of his right life bearing ways Your life-giving mysteries. When he decided to leave his father's house for the land of Aram to take a wife. Your ineffable coming down towards us and the betrothal of the bride of light, the daughter of the Arameans was represented. When he arrived at the well of the mysteries, and with might remove the stone -that cannot be moved away - from its mouth, in order to give drink to the sheep, that were lying down there, indicated the lifting up of the cover of the Law - that Your Gospel will reveal. By it You removed the heart of stone from the gentiles and gave them a heart of flesh, as the prophetic word *(said)*. By it You confirmed *(the words of)* Your Baptizer that God is able to make children for Abraham from these stones *(Mtt. 3:9)*. In his four wives-

both free and concubines -the ministers of the Gospel were indicated: first the apostles by excellence, and second the evangelists by preaching. By the twelve offsprings, the rational springs-the holy apostles- who are from You, the true rock as drink for the new Israel were announced. By the wonderful birth of those flock, which beside the peeled rods *(placed)* in front of the tunnels of water, were bred, he announced the exalted wisdom in the hiddenness of the spiritual birth of baptism, which was fulfilled in the cross. That two beautiful colors are found in it: blood and water, life and death, divinity, and humanity. They are one and the same in both of them, so that those who are born will become spiritual, as they are carnal, they will turn back and become divine by grace. By that which he dared to accomplish (cunningly) and without the knowledge of the flock about the (branch), he depicted the deceit of the adversary, the ruler of the world, (and that) which you realized by the prayer to be delivered from death. Our Savior when You were pleased and was seen on earth in the flesh. You fulfilled literally all these things in Your person. Satan had deceived Adam's family with the hope of divinity and instead of it You deceived him with humanity. Since he deceived them with food. You killed him by Your knowledge. By Your death. You defeated his wisdom because he assured them cunningly that they will not die, and with the blow with which he struck them. He attacked him. By the killing with which he killed them. He killed him. The Harmano *(the serpent)* of Moses, suspended in the camp on a wood, for the healing of those who were severely injured by him, represented You. Towards You and to Your crucifixion, we look at diligently, for You were the serpent that was suspended before those who are tormented. On the cross. You did pour over him deadly gall by blood and water which flowed from Your side, so that by them cup of life and the mystical spring of baptism were granted to us, in which cross has been erected as rods. By it. You rescued the flock stolen by him, which he had snatched iniquitously, and presumptuously made his own. You brought back Your captives by force and untied his yoke, and with the

water of baptism. You purified and cleansed it, examined it, and proved it. Amazingly You fashioned it as new creation. By the second birth, it became more fair and excellent than the former state and from her darkness, she was made white, the one who was formerly beautiful. She became the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit, instead of the wind that blows at noon. Therefore, we beseech You, Christ our God, to deliver us from hard temptations and intense fight of the adversary. Remove from our left-hand thousands of evil spirits, and tens of thousands from our right hand. May they not approach us at all. But may we see the rewards of the wicked alone. Grant us O Lord, by Your grace, the way of life worthy of the birth like this, that we may live before You all our days. May we be held worthy of the blessed banquet, promised to those who do Your will. By Your grace and good pleasure of Your Blessed Father and the operation of Your Holy Spirit, now...

Etro

Prepare us, O Lord God, to become the invited and prepared for the feast of Your resurrection full of life and to suffer here with Your passions and to celebrate Your crucifixion. We take pride in Your bruises and in Your beatings. There hold us worthy to rejoice and to exult in You and to glorify You and Your Father...

Great and Holy Wednesday | Night / Lilyo: Fourth Qaumo

Prumiyon

Glory to that Good Shepherd, who was beaten by His own will, and the sheep of His sheepfold were scattered, that Almighty, who was pleased to be seized in order to liberate us from the dominion of the Adversary, that Holy One who suffered dishonor from the corrupt, in order to bring us from the corruption of sin to holiness. To Him befits...

SEDRO

O God the Word, who is able to glorify fittingly Your salvific dispensation! Who is capable of narrating the abyss of Your love for humanity! Even the awesome Cherubim hesitate to gaze at Your place and the Seraphim cover their faces and feet with their wings and sanctify Your Lordship. You endured humiliating and voluntary innocent and salvific sufferings, insult, disgrace and mocking from the mad and insolent Jewish people. Being the Lord and the Maker of all. You served at the Supper as a servant. You destroyed the pride of the demons and knelt down and offered supplication before Your Father, in order to lift us up from the fall and the worship of idols. Being unapproachable and mighty with Your Father, You were sold by Judah for money in order to purchase us- we who were sold to sin - with Your blood from death, sin and Satan. You were betrayed by him with a kiss, while You are invisible to the hosts above. You were seized by the corrupt Jewish people, while You cannot be closely followed even by the flash of lightening and minds and nor searched by mind and understanding. Your disciples, friends, companions, and relatives left You and fled. Those who were near to You stood far away. Then the wicked took You to the tribunal to imprison You. By Your imprisonment by Sheol-which is the sorrowful prison - You brought out our souls. You were pleased to be judged by Pilate in order to liberate Adam, who was condemned by judgement. You received slap on the cheek from a servant, in order to liberate us from slavery. You were spat upon Your face, to redeem us from shame and the condemnation to come. They clothed You with a red garment, and You have clothed us with the garment of glory which we have stripped off by the transgression of the commandment. By being bound to the pillar. You have untied us from the bonds of sin. They placed a crown of thorns on Your head, and You rooted up thorns and thistles from earth. You suffered disgrace and You exalted us. You endured passion and redeemed us. You died and gave life to us. Therefore, with amazement at Your abasement full of wonder, with

fear and thanksgiving, we say: O redeeming passions which removed our sufferings, O little drops of blood with which our sores were healed! We confess Your passion, and we worship Your cross. We exult in Your humility for us and we take pride in Your death for us. We rejoice in Your resurrection by which You raised our fall. We beseech and supplicate You Christ our God: protect Your Church, *(which You)* redeemed with Your cross from the harms of the Adversary and grant her to suffer in Your passion and to imitate Your humility. Rejoicing and exulting, may she embrace Your wounds and rejoice in Your resurrection, so that in the day of Your manifestation in glory, may she welcome You with great joy and offer praise and thanksgiving to You, and to Your Father...

ETRO

The fattened bull, who by his sacrifice, abolished all sacrifices and libations of the idols from earth, and who by his passion put to death the sufferings of the human race and by his crucifixion, killed the one who killed our Father Adam in the Paradise, and by his resurrection raised us from the fall of sin, receive this fragrant incense from our feebleness, which we offer to Your Lordship. Remove from us enmity, schism, and controversy. Let Your peace reign over us - You, who are always indivisible peace - Christ, or Lord and our God forever.

GREAT AND HOLY WEDNESDAY | MATINS / SAPRO

INTRODUCTORY PRAYER

Make us worthy, O Lord God, that, with the elements and natures which were moved and shaken on this day, we may fear and be moved by Your judgements. Make to dwell in us the fear of the last day. Do not count us with those who crucified You, but confess us, for we have confessed You and Your redeeming passion. Deliver us from the

torments that are kept for the doers of evil. We will offer up glory and thanksgiving to You and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit, now and always, forever, and ever.

PRUMIYON

Glory to God the Word, who became that is, put on - passible and mortal flesh for us, the mortals, in order to grant us impassibility and immortality by His voluntary passion and death, who today revealed the mystery of His passion - that is His betrayal by the rebellious Judah, who killed his father, will betray Him to the company of His disciples and made them sad, and indicated to them His resurrection on the third day and comforted them, to Him befits...

SEDRO

Christ, God, King, and the Lord of the heavenly and earthly beings, by Your love for humanity. You united Yourself with our flesh, without change, and for us and on account of us. You were pleased to suffer in the flesh, in order to liberate us by Your grace, from sinful passions and from the servitude to Satan and from the corruption and destruction which broke off our hope in life. Today You were pleased to reveal to the beloved company of the twelve, that one among you is about to betray me to the Jews. Today the deceitful high priests and the Scribes and the Pharisees planned evil against You, who grants benefits to everyone, especially the One who has regards for them. Today Judas Iscariot by his freedom and the inducement of Satan went to the deceitful priests, that he may betray You for killing. You, the Life of all, who came to die for everyone. Today without reason, with the bands of those who hated You, the deceitful disciple held counsel against You to sell You, who came to purchase the entire world with His own blood. Today the evil and rebellious servants fixed Your prize as thirty pieces - of the Lord of all - as written by the prophet. Today with the assembly of the wicked, the adversary rejoiced in the lamb who became a wolf, and made an assault on

You, the Good Shepherd, and the spotless Lamb, who came for the sake of the sheep that went astray from Your sheepfold, that by Your sacrifice You may redeem it from the mouth of the ravening wolf. Today Judah sold You just for thirty dinars. The harlot approached You and she anointed You, the Priceless divine Myron, with the oil bought for 300 dinars. Today Judas departed from Your divine company and the sinful woman with the tears of her eyes gained communion with You with sincere love. Today the assembly of the savages rejoices, for it has found that the deceiver's will has been fulfilled and the band of the apostles were grieved by Your passion and by the deceitful disciple who separated himself from his place. Today the right hand is grieved by the free one who departed from it, and the left hand rejoices for the one who belonged to the right has been snatched by inducement. Today the love for money, the root of all evil, pulled down his friend Judah from the position of the apostle and gave *(him)* hanging as inheritance. My Lord, who is able to measure Your goodness, towards the one who betrayed You? You remained patient until he destroyed himself because of despair! Who is kind and gentle like You, who did not deprive the one who sold You and exchanged You for a little amount of money, of Your life-giving teaching! Who is like You, the Exalted One, who humbled Yourself to wash the foot that was raised against You, as that of Cephas! Who can be compared to You, the Bread of Life, which came down from the height, and did not prevent him who dared to dip his hand with You in the dish, from the bread of the Qurbana! However, dipping in water. You gave him as to one who is worthy, to him who was rashly holding grudge, guile, and deceit in his heart. We therefore, O Lord, who are bought by Your blood and redeemed by Your cross, proud of Your name, who glorify in Your salvific passion for us, beseech You with affection *(hasho)* and diligence of heart, to keep us away from the love for money -the mother of all evil- purify us from grudge and enmity, and make us strange to jealousy and deceit. Cleanse us from cunningness and craftiness. Raise us from all

iniquities. Deliver us from destructive despair. Instead of all these things, fill us with faith, hope, perfect love, peace, tranquility, gentleness, kindness, innocence, integrity, humility, purity, joy and gladness and every good manner of life that pleases You, so that we may be held worthy of receiving Your body and Your life-giving blood like Your pure apostles, and to suffer with You in Your passion, and to rejoice in Your resurrection and exult in Your manifestation, and we will offer up glory and thanksgiving to You and to Your Father.

ETRO

Enlighten O Lord, our minds with the light of Your manifestation. Make firm our souls with the love of Your cross. Equip our bodies with the impassibility of Your passion. Keep our thoughts in the blessedness of Your grace. Awaken our hearts for singing Your praises. Exhale in us the sweet odor of our good manners that pleases You. O Lord, receive our incense for the reconciliation of Your loving kindness and of Your Father.

GREAT AND HOLY WEDNESDAY | THIRD HOUR

PRUMIYON

Glory to that Great Holy Pontiff *(kumro),* who offered Himself for the forgiveness of our sins and by the humble passion redeemed us and healed the affliction of the wood with the wood of the crucifixion. To Him...

SEDRO

Christ our God, who because of Your love and abundant compassion for the guilty Adam came for passion and voluntary humiliation, in order to set us free from the punishment of death and transgression of the commandment. You did fulfill in Your

person the image which Your servant Moses prefigured in Egypt in that evening of redemption. *(And)* You fulfilled this before Your apostles in that upper-room full of indications and life-giving mysteries of the Holy Church. But You concluded *(htam)* the old with the lamb and began the new with bread and You gave us Your body and blood in that mystical supper and the food and drink became absolution for us. You inclined Your head for the kiss of deceit, and You were seized by the accursed Jewish people. You came for the disgrace of the cross and You stood in the tribunal on the day of the passion. From the insolent servant You received blow on the cheek, in order to deliver us from the condemnation of sin. You stood in the tribunal like an offender. Through the spit that You received on Your face from the unholy. You had removed from our faces the great dishonor, which ruled over us through the transgression of the commandment. You did put on the garments of holiness through the mocking of the Jews that You may clad us with the Holy Spirit from whom we were stripped off among the woods by the jealousy of the evil and the Harmono serpent. By the thorns of Your crown. You rooted up the sin which had sown death in our members. With the rod of mocking with which the Scribes of the people insulted You, You wrote our names in the book of Life. You were suspended naked on the top of the wood and by the stripping off of Your flesh. You put the ruler of the air into shame, that chief of the evil and the father of falsehood. You drank vinegar and gall for Adam, who ate the mortal fruit of the tree. Because of those hands which stole food and caused death to enter each generation. You gave Your hands for the nails and feet for the fetters of iron. You fulfilled in Your person all the mysteries that were prefigured by the prophets of Your Father, and You said: 'Behold, everything is fulfilled'. Yea Lord, remembering Your abasement which is beyond word and Your voluntary and innocent sufferings, protect Your Catholic, Apostolic and Holy Church, which is here and everywhere. With blameless faith, she worships Your passion and confesses Your human activities and

acknowledges that You are truly God of all and beseeches You with this fragrant incense, which is offered to You by us the weak and miserable ones in this time when we celebrate the memory of Your passions, by which the iniquities of our race were blotted out. Grant remission of debts and forgiveness of sins to us as well as to all our faithful brethren who have asked and are asking the prayer our feebleness. Make good memory to all faithful departed who have taken rest in Your hope, removing all iniquities of ours as well as theirs, both voluntary and involuntary, with knowledge or without knowledge, that we as well as they may stand at Your right hand and see Your mercy and offer up glory and thanksgiving to You and to Your Father...

ETRO

Receive O Lord, the incense of Your Church which You have redeemed with Your blood and be reconciled by the incense of Your sheepfold bought with Your blood. Listen to the petitions of Your flock that take pride in Your killing. Hear the prayers of Your bride, who embraces Your wounds. Protect Your inheritance by Your cross from all passions that separate her from You. May she suffer in Your passion and glorify in Your glory and rejoice and exult together in the day of Your resurrection, and may she offer up glory and thanksgiving to You and to Your Father.

GREAT AND HOLY WEDNESDAY | SIXTH HOUR

PRUMIYON

Glory to that Holy Pontiff *(kutnro)* who offered Himself for our salvation and renewed our sufferings by His amazing humble passion, and blotted out our sins, and healed the disease (caused by) the wood, which is the transgression of the commandment, through the power of the crucifixion, to Him befits...

Sedro

My Lord, Your Church, the fruit of the Exalted, worships You. Your sheepfold, the child of Your divinity exalts Your lordly and holy passions. God Almighty forever. Your congregation praises Your atoning wounds. By Your abundant love. You mounted on the wood of disgrace for the sake of the children of Adam. You absolved the iniquity of the earth by Your own slaughter. *(You are)* the fattened Ox sacrificed on the top of Golgotha and reconciled the earthly with the heavenly, and the pure and holy lamb which was voluntarily sacrificed and took away the sin of the world by His sacrifice. The one who grants absolution to all, became the reconciliatory incense for the offenders, and reconciled His Father with the creation. O Lord, we confess Your passions; we worship Your cross, by which our sin was blotted out. We embrace Your wounds, by which our afflictions passed away and our iniquities vanished. We praise Your resurrection by which You rescued us from the mouth of the devouring Sheol, because You were seized for our sake by the crucifiers, while holding the creation as God. You went like an unblemished lamb for slaughter, carrying the cross of disgrace on Your shoulder and brought it and *(re-)*introduced it *(the human nature)* into Your Father's house. Now we beseech You, O Lord, may this incense that we offer before You, be accepted through You in the presence of Your sender, so that having put on the breast plate of faith, wearing the helmet of salvation, and dressed with true love, and bound with the girdle of hope of life, may we held worthy to come with confidence to Your glorious resurrection., and to become companions and guests in Your banquet, and new heirs in Your kingdom, and may we and all our departed rejoice in the unending and unceasing blessedness, and may we offer up glory and thanksgiving to You, O Christ, who suffered for the sake of our redemption, and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit. Now...

Etro

Enlighten O lord, our minds with the Gospel of Your grace. Make firm our souls with the love of Your cross. Equip our bodies with the impassibility of Your passion. Keep our thoughts in the blessedness of Your love. Awaken our hearts for singing your praises and make fragrant within us the sweet odor of our good manners that pleases You and receive our incense for the reconciliation of Your loving kindness and of Your Father.

Great and Holy Wednesday | Ninth Hour

Prumiyon

Glory to that Savior who by His cross brought the mysteries of the prophets to an end and fulfilled the parables of the seers and confirmed the types of the just and completed the images of the saints, and fortified the voice of the preachers and gave word to the evangelists by His great power, to Him befits...

Sedro

Your sheepfold worships and glorifies You, our Lord Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd who was slain for us and vivified our mortality by His death. We confess before You O Lord, who had the will to set us free from the sacrifice of the dumb animals and from the sprinkling of blood that we may offer all the days of our lives thanksgiving and fragrance with this fragrant offering. Increase O Lord, peace in Your Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church which You have purchased with Your blood and redeemed with Your cross. Humble before her doors the cruel kings holding authority of this world. Keep for her Your true promises until the end of the world. Be reconciled by the prayers of her high priests and priests and have pity on Your entire congregation. Guard the crown of the believing king who takes refuge in Your victorious cross. Defeat before him *(his)* enemies. Bless the crown of the year by Your grace *(Ps. 65:12- Peshitta)*. Protect the fruits

and species of the earth from all harms. Be a helper to the afflicted and house of refuge for the sad, and a comforter to those who are perturbed and guardian for the needy. May the groan of the oppressed enter before You. Do not withhold Your mercies from the affliction of the captives. Be watchful to the call of those who are wearied out by waves and tempests of the sea. Lead them to the ports of their destination. By Your grace, remember the souls of our fathers, brethren, teachers, and colleagues who have already departed. By You, may they gather together in the place of rest, and reach Your place of life. And everyone who died by sword, captivity, hunger, or ill- treatment, or by any kind of distress whatso-ever, confessing Your passion and worshiping Your cross, reward them these things O Lord. Take them to Your bridal chamber of life and to the heavenly kingdom. And from all the living and the departed, may praise be offered up to Your Lordship, and of Your Father and of Your Holy Spirit. Now....

ETRO

Receive O Lord our Lord, the incense that Your sheepfold offers to You and give peace to Your Church and quietness and rest to Your flock. Hold her worthy to suffer in Your passions with confession, and embrace Your wounds with adoration, and to bless Your resurrection with exaltation, and to enter the sheepfold of life and to offer glory and thanksgiving to You and to Your Father....

GREAT AND HOLY THURSDAY (PESHO) | VESPERS / RAMSHO

(The Order of the Thursday of the Mysteries)

INTRODUCTORY PRAYER

Make us worthy, O Lord God, having girded the loins of our souls, having lighted the lamps of Your knowledge, having made straight the postures of our spirits by the rod of Your trust, and having walked without interruption in the narrow paths of Your

commandments, to draw near to Your heavenly table and partake of Your holy body and atoning blood. By Your sign, may our souls be protected from destruction and harm. We will offer up glory and praise to You, and to Your Father, and to Your Holy Spirit, now and always, forever, and ever. Amin.

PRUMIYON

Glory to that Lord of the feasts and the One who perfects the festivals, who went up for the feast to complete and to fulfill the mysteries of the Law, who told His disciples that 'I earnestly desired to eat the Passover with You before I die, and I shall complete the old and fulfill the images, and transmit to You the new covenant in my blood so that I may be with You forever and I give You my holy body and precious blood as the pledge of the future life which will not grow old, and they shall be for You for the remission of debts and for the forgiveness of sins'. To Him befits...

SEDRO

Christ, the King of glory and the God of all, the Lamb of God who came to take away the iniquity of the world, by His own person *(baqnumeh),* and by His grace, to be slain for the life of the world, by His compassion, to give Himself as a substitute for the death on the cross for sinners, who by His love for humanity willed to lift up us out of the sacrifices of calves, oxen, lambs and baby animals, libations and the holocausts of the Law. You told Your disciples: Go and prepare everything for us for the feast, for I have earnestly desired to eat Passover today with you. With the man who carries a jar of water, go where he enters, and say to the house owner that our teacher and Lord says: Today evening He is going to keep the Passover with you. Simeon and John went and as You had told them, they saw the Upper room prepared, belonging to Your friend whom You raised from tomb. They prepared everything according to Your

commandment. According to the Law, *(You)* finished the supper with Your disciples. Then You wanted to teach them by deed and word the best way of exaltation which is perfect humility. You girded Your loins with a towel and while sitting You told them: Thus, do mutually with love and learn humility of mind from me'. As soon as the Supper was finished. You took bread in Your holy hands and blessed it with thanks¬ giving and You gave (it) to them and said: This is the mystery which is being sacrificed for the entire world and this is my body; Take eat from it, for the remission of debts of everyone who believes in me. Likewise, You blessed the cup and gave to them and said: This is my blood of the New Covenant. Take drink of it all of You for the forgiveness of sins of everyone who believes in me. Thus make the memory of my death, until I come again. After having entrusted them to the Father and You revealed to them about the betrayal of the rebellious, and about the renouncing by the head of the disciples, and about (their) flight, as it is written. You demonstrated that You have put an end to the old things and have begun the New Testament which grants eternal and immortal and imperishable life. O new and lordly feast, O amazing and ineffable mystery, O ineffable greatness, O unlimited love for humanity, O heavenly Lamb who ate the lamb of law, eaten in secret, O Great day of the Unleavened bread in which the mystery of our redemption was perfected, O mystical Upper-room in which one year old lamb was eaten, in which the Living Lamb of God was eaten, who by His sacrifice, takes away the sin of the world. Today the bread of life from heaven was mystically entrusted to us in bread and wine, type of Melchizedek the just high priest. Today let all of us celebrate the feast of purification and the feast of atonement, not with old leaven of evil and bitterness, but with the leaven of purity and holiness. Today let us celebrate the holy and lordly Passover, the departure from oldness to newness, and from mortality to immortality, from tyranny of slavery to the lordly freedom, from the lamb among the sheep to the Lamb of divinity. Today we have a spiritual passage from faithlessness to faith, from

error to truth. Today we have found the true life which does not grow old. Today from the house of Levi the knife was brought down *(nheth)* - which slain the dumb animals - by the rational and bloodless sacrifice which was offered in the Upper-room. Today the sprinkling of blood and the dropping of ashes were withheld from the temple of Sion by the rational and bloodless sacrifice of the Lamb, who by His mystery, was pouring forth all blood. Therefore, we beseech You, Christ our God, who like the dead, divided Your body and blood among us, and as the Living ate and drank from it. We know that You alone was Living and dead; killed and the giver of life. Hold us worthy now for the life-giving reception of Your holy body and blood. By it, may we be delivered from the destroyer; lest he may enter and destroy the first-borns of our souls: pure and sinless thoughts regarding Your passion and life-giving death. Hold us worthy to eat it, having been girded our loins with chastity, and wearing the sandals of peace on our feet, and supported by the rod of Your victorious cross. May we receive it, without having any doubt in our mind, but with true and pure faith, having been baked *(mtawi)* in the fire of love, seasoned with the salt of truth. Hold us worthy, O Lord, to eat You with newness every day, devoid of all oldness and drink You newly in Your kingdom. There may we offer You heavenly and spotless rams and innocent and undefiled lambs and pure and immaculate drink offerings, pure and spotless doves, and turtle doves. Here, and there in the unending world, may we celebrate a joyful Passover and rejoice and exult in You. We and our departed ones, as well as all the faithful departed who have taken rest in You, will offer up glory with joy and thanksgiving with cheerfulness and exultation with gladness to You and to Your Father whom You have reconciled by the blood which You have shed for us and to Your Holy Spirit who is consubstantial to You. Now...

Etro

Receive O Lord God, this incense which we have offered before You in this feast, like the offering of Abel and like the holocaust of Noah, and the sacrifice of Abraham, and the sacred ministry of Melchizedek and like the prayer of Moses, incense of Aaron, and undertaking *(t'ayono)* of Phinehas, supplication of David, tears of Manasseh. Make us glad O Lord, by the remission of our debts and the healing of our pains, protection of our souls, and the atonement of our departed, that we will offer up glory and thanksgiving to You and to Your Father...

GREAT AND HOLY THURSDAY (PESHO) | COMPLINE / SOUTORO

PRUMIYON

Glory to Him, who alone is true and perfect love, who because of His love for humanity came down from heaven and lived on earth by way of dispensation, who, in His person *(baqnumeh)* demonstrated humility and the excellent way of perfection, standing up and girding towel around his waist and washed the feet of His disciples. To Him befits...

SEDRO

Christ our God, You made the invisible or visible things by Your word. By Your eternal powers. You brought everything into existence. You are the fountain of holiness, light, life, justice, and purity and for us You became incarnate without change. You endured insult, mocking and humiliation for us. While being ministered by the heavenly hosts, for the sake of our salvation. You were seen as a servant. By the love for humanity. You fulfilled this, transmitting the teaching of virtue to *(Your)* uninstructed and ignorant apostles whom You had chosen from many First You demonstrated them the example of humility by reclining with them in the mystical Upper-room, and You ate the holy

Passover, and You revealed and showed the hidden mysteries. Afterwards, You handed over the true type to them. Standing up from the Supper like a servant. You girded Your waist with a towel and poured water in a basin, and You washed their feet, and beginning from the little one. You reached Peter in the end, and showed and taught us the example *(tupso)* of humility. You commanded that we also owe it mutually, and by it You sowed unity of love and mutual communion by patience. They received it with¬ out grudge and handed *(it)* over to us also. We who live by the example of these things, beseech Your benevolence, do not bring to Your memory the iniquities that we have committed. But grant us the absolution for all of them as to the harlot and include us among Your chosen ones. Grant us that this washing of today be for us purification from every defilement of the soul and body. Drive away from us every bitterness, wrath, blasphemy, slander, murmuring, jealousy, division, and evil deed and renew the inner man, and sanctify him with Your Living and Holy Spirit. Grant us. Your servants-leaders and those who are under them, the great and the little, may we cling together, spiritually and with love, like our members, caring and glorifying mutually, and dividing different works of praises among us and all of us will together offer up glory and thanksgiving to You and to Your Father...

[No 'Etro]

Great and Holy Thursday (Pesho) | Night / Lilyo: First Qaumo

Introductory Prayer

Awaken us, Lord, from our sleep in the sloth of sin that we may praise your watchfulness, You who watch and do not sleep; give life to our death in the sleep of death and corruption, that we may adore Your compassion, You who live and do not die; grant us in the glorious company of the angels who praise You in heaven, to praise

You and bless you in holiness, because You are praised and blessed in heaven and on earth, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and always and forever.

PRUMIYON

Glory to that Passover who is living and the Giver of life, whom all Passovers represent, and all feasts signify, and all mysteries indicate, and all fasting praise and all mouths glorify, and all tongues confess and exalt, let us remember and praise the Good One in this...

SEDRO

Christ, our God who is God and Creator of all, with Your Father and Your Holy Spirit, willed by Your love, and You became man, without change and without the experience of marriage, in order to redeem the human beings from death and sin. As You are the One who established the Mosaic Law, You demonstrated the fulfillment of the Law in Your person, so that You may become curse of the gentiles who have no law, and they might be blessed by You. In the beginning of the way. You completed circumcision and received the seal of the family of Abraham on Your person, that You might dominate the Gospel of life not like strangers. In the middle of the dispensation. You fulfilled the justice and received upon You the baptism of repentance by grace, O the One who is exalted from every sin, and beyond fault, in order to give us perfect forgiveness and by water. You established a secure treasure. At the end of Your activity. You were pleased to observe the Mosaic Passover and desired to eat the mystical lamb with Your disciples. You, the Lamb of the Living God, was represented exactly in its amazing mysteries and Your image was completely indicated in its hidden histories. In order to fulfill perfectly those things of the Old Law, and then to conclude with justice and to give us the New *(Law),* You divided Your holy body among Your apostles and fed (them) and gave them Your lordly blood to drink. And by it. You wrote the New Covenant for Your Church

and prepared Yourself for the death on the cross and to realize perfect redemption. Therefore, You asked for a house and Your ministers sought for You a suitable place for Your action. O the One who fills the height and the depth, in which You had no place to recline Your head, O head of life. Having prepared everything as it befits You, by Your grace, with love. You reclined there and fulfilled and perfected everything calmly. By Your love for humanity. You washed the feet of Your disciples, and showed them humility, the new way of love, and through them handed over to us. With dipped bread, You put deceitful Judah to shame. Now O Lord, the Lover of men, we beseech Your mercies, and we supplicate Your grace, to renew Your divine deposits in us and strengthen our souls with the indwelling of Your Holy Spirit. Fill our hearts with sincere love towards You and among us. Gladden our sadness by the joy of Your holy Passover, so that we may be held worthy of celebrating for you the feasts of redemption with purity, not with the old leaven of evil and bitterness, but with the leaven of purity and holiness which pleases You. With all those who celebrate feasts above, and the fiery hosts and the souls of the saints, may we rejoice and exult and sing praises that befits You. In that last unending festival, in which Your second glorious coming takes place, may we and our faithful departed be held worthy to enter Your bridal chamber, full of light, and continuous joy with all those who had fulfilled Your will, and to offer up glory and thanksgiving to You and to Your Father...

ETRO

O Lord, by his sacrifice, Isaac prefigured Your mysteries and Abraham earnestly desired to see that day. With the lamb and its blood that delivered the people from death (*that is)* the destroyer - Moses indicated it. In his prophecy, Isaiah preached on it, crying out: A mystery to me; a mystery to me and to the members of my house. *(Is. 24:16 Peshitta).* O Lord, by Your mysteries, You have made us Your associates and we have become

participants in Your body and blood and we have been baptized in Your life-giving death, and you have promised us Your kingdom. Hold us worthy to keep Your deposits, and may we become those who obey Your commandments and fulfill Your will and we will offer up glory and thanksgiving to You and to Your Father.

GREAT AND HOLY THURSDAY (PESHO) | NIGHT / LILYO: SECOND QAUMO

PRUMIYON

Glory to that Eternal Word, whom all the heavenly hosts minister in the heights with trembling, and whose will all the orders above fulfill with fear, was pleased by His natural graciousness, to be lowered towards those who are below, in order to gather together the lost, and to deliver and to rescue them from the servitude of the rebellious Adversary, who was condescended to be sold by His servant, that is by His disciple, to the wicked servants like a slave for killing. To Him befits...

SEDRO

Who has word, or a tongue capable of narrating the account of Your adorable and redemptive passions which You voluntarily endured for us, O Word, the Exalted God! Who is intelligent and wise, capable of searching and observing the inscrutable law of Your ineffable abasement for our salvation! Which mind or thought can comprehend the magnificent discourse of Your abasement which happened for us! While all the creatures above and below shrink and tremble at Your Essence, the wicked and rebellious Jewish people who reject Your grace, gathered, and took counsel with the High Priest Annas and Caiaphas to destroy You, who have placed the entire Universe in the palm of Your hand. Then Judas Iscariot, one among the chosen apostolic band which You selected for the ministry of the living fire - serving You in heaven, trembling at Your flame - who by his freedom, having been captivated by love for money, abandoned Your infinite

inheritance and the companion of Satan ran after the murderers. As they were staying quietly, he approached them and promised them to sell You, that is to betray You to them, saying: 'What do you like to give me? I can betray Him to you, the same Jesus of Nazareth whom you are seeking. What agreement do you make with me that if I hand Him over to You, who violated the Sabbath by His actions and said that He is the Lord of the Sabbath? What will you give me if I hand Him over to you, who has said: I am the Son of God and King of Israel; I am His disciple, and He trusts me'. Then with the exultation of the heart, they promised him thirty dinars, that is pieces of money. Here after, he was seeking opportunity and time to betray You, whom You have promised the throne in heaven as to Peter, whom You have given authority in heaven and on earth, and who, in Your name healed the sick, expelled demons and raised the dead, whom You made participant in the mystical supper, and did not withhold him from washing his hands and did not prevent from the reception of Your body and Your propitiatory blood. *(How great is)* Your patience and Your kindness, O God, who entrusted everything to him who raised his feet against You, as for Peter and his companions, when he has deceit against You in his mind, and voluntarily handed over Yourself and joined the crucifiers. Regarding this. You indicated to Cephas and the rest of his companions that one among You is about to deliver me up to the wicked; but do not fear; he is the one who dips his hands in the dish with me. Beware of him! But when I rise again on the third *(day)* in peace, I will make You glad and joyful, and I will fill with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, we beseech You, Christ our God, Compassionate and Lover of man, who received upon You all that Adam, the head of our creation owed, and You took upon Your person the sins of all of us, and nailed by Your crucifixion, in order to renew us who are redeemed by Your cross. By Your grace, hold us worthy of the joy of Your spiritual supper, and for the washing from every transgression, and for the life-giving communion of Your body and propitiatory blood. Rescue us from despair that

the wretched Judas suffered and deliver us from the eternal and just judgement. Hold us worthy and our departed for the portion of Your saints, and for the splendor of Your wedding guests, and for the joy with Your invited in the heavenly kingdom. We will offer up glory and thanksgiving to You and to Your Father...

ETRO

Extend O Lord, Your right hand -clad with victory and full of helps - over Your believing people, and bless the assembly of Your sheepfold. Accept this incense from our feeble hands which has been offered for the appeasing of Your Lordship. In this day of Your salvific passion as well as all the days of our life, hold us worthy to praise, sing, and exalt Your divinity with holy hymns and spiritual songs, and we will offer up glory and praise to You and to Your Father.

GREAT AND HOLY THURSDAY (PESHO) | NIGHT / LILYO: THIRD QAUMO

PRUMIYON

Glory be to that hidden and ineffable mystery which was revealed in the flesh and preached and believed in the world and received by the gentiles and spoken by the disciples and demonstrated by the apostles. Let us all, the partakers of the faith, confess, worship, and praise this time...

SEDRO

We glorify You, Christ our Savior, the Lord of the mysteries who was mysteriously spoken by the apostles and appeared in types to the mystagogues, and clearly indicated through the type of the seers. Abraham looked for Your day to see it, and he saw and rejoiced. When on the top of the mountain. Your glorious revelation was seen to him, in the lamb which became a sacrifice in the place of Isaac and redeemed him from knife. And again, it was clearly made known to Moses by the mystery of the lamb which was

slain in the evening and redemption was granted to the firstborns of the Israelites. You are the Lamb of God who by Your cross, took away the sin of the world. When You ate the lamb of the Law with Your disciples and celebrated the mystical Passover, and indicated to them that the type was fulfilled and shadow has been perfected and henceforward truth will be revealed to them: 'Mystery to me, mystery to me and the members of my family, and new mystery will be revealed to them. You took bread in Your holy hands and blessed, broke, and gave to the apostles. Your companions and You told them: This is my body which is broken for many and given for the sins of the world. And You mixed the cup from wine and water and gave the to drink, saying: This is the cup of the New Covenant in my blood. Drink of it, all of you, without doubting, for I have sacrificed myself and for Your sake I am consecrating myself, and now the old things have passed, and everything has become new, and thus do my memory. O great and life-giving mystery of wonder! O Lamb that takes away the sin of the world, by whom we have *(gained)* salvation! O Great Passover, that gladdens His people with His slaughter! O the Sacrifice who offered Himself, and voluntarily showed that he will be sacrificed like a lamb by the murderers! Great is the mystery for those who are capable of discernment. Wonderful is the account for the wizards. The Church has received this tradition. The congregation of the gentiles has received the mystery by faith and behold preserve it and is preserved by it from every adverse activity. In mystery she eats His living body without doubt. In love she drinks the life-giving cup without inquiry. By Your holy mystery, O Lord, may she be protected from the jealousy of the evil. By Your cross, may she be delivered from the deceit of the fraudulent disciple, and may she be helped by Your grace. And by the teaching of Your mysteries, may she endeavor like John who, in the Supper, fell on Your breast to know the meaning of Your words, and like Simon who learned who is going to betray You by deceit. May she be washed from every impurity and defilement. Like the beloved company of the apostles, may she gain

humility, unity, love, and compassion, what You gave her as types. With You, may she rejoice and exult with joy in Your heavenly kingdom, and may she offer up glory and thanksgiving to You and to Your Father...

ETRO

True Lord, whose lordship the nature declares, and the worlds narrate the greatness and the creation trembles at His killing, the elements were moved by His humility, accept now also the incense that we offer to You. Excite in us, O Lord, the reason of Your humility, the wonder of Your abasement, the power of Your cross and the greatness of Your death, so that instead of the mute natures, we the feeble and those who are endowed with senses, may we narrate Your lordship and declare Your greatness and glorify Your grace and worship and praise Your loving kindness. Now...

GREAT AND HOLY THURSDAY (PESHO) | NIGHT / LILYO: FOURTH QAUMO

PRUMIYON

Glory be to that Righteous *(hasiyo)*, Holy, Ineffable, Impassible, Immortal, Incorruptible, who by His own will suffered for us and put our sufferings to suffer by His passion and killed the tyrant death by His death for us and granted us incorruptible and immortal life. To Him befits....

SEDRO

Christ our God, who is glorious, and exalted from glory, terrible, mighty and the Mightiest in the world. You are inscrutable and incomprehensible and ineffable for all Your creatures. Graciously You descended from Your invisible heights towards our feebleness, and endured passion, cross and death for us, in order to grant us impassibility by Your passions and to confer *(us)* incorruptibility by Your death. In Your person, You completed all mysteries, types and parables of the holy prophets and the

seers of secrets, who prefigures and showed Your life-giving crucifixion and Your redeeming death. One symbolized *(you)* by the lamb that was slaughtered in the evening for our salvation, and another represented *(you)* by the ram that was brought forth by the tree, that redeemed Isaac from his sacrifice. Another signified *(You)* by the red cow that was sacrificed for the sin of the people. Another figured You by the ewe before the shearer. Another prophesied on You as the lamb that was led for slaughter. Another announced that You were numbered among the wicked. Another cried out: Strike the shepherd and his sheep will be scattered. Another preached that they beat the shepherd of Israel on His cheek. Another sung: They pierced my hands and feet. Another taught that they will look upon him whom they had pierced. Another made it known that Christ, the King will be killed and by His killing, the holy city will be devastated. Another said that they will see the death of the righteous one, and they will not recognize him. Another mystically indicated to his people that Your life is on the tree. Another explained that he who believes in Him will not be ashamed. Therefore, You have demonstrated that their words are true and You ate the lamb of the Law with Your disciples, and You were betrayed to the mad people by the fraudulent disciple. You endured insult and mocking. You stood up in the tribunal and was questioned like a guilty one and like an evil doer, You endured passion and death. While You were known in the heights above as the King of kings, and the One who plaits crowns, in the depths below crown of thorn was placed on Your head. While in the heights above, chariots of fire are yoked for Your honor, in the depths below You were nailed on the wood of the cross. While in the heights above. You were worshipped along with the Father and the Holy Spirit by consubstantiality, in the depths below, You were numbered among the wicked and evil doers. Therefore, in our minds we offer up glory to Your grace, saying: Glory to You, the High Priest of our religion who sanctified our race by Your sacrifice. Glory to You, O Good Shepherd, who became the lamb for slaughter, for the sake of our

salvation. Glory to You, for You did suffer. Glory to You, for You were crucified. Glory to You, for You died. Glory to You, for You were buried. Glory to You, for You resurrected. Therefore, we beseech You, O Merciful and the Lover of humanity to accept this incense from the hands of our feebleness. Grant us to appear before You today and the rest of our lives as it befits Your passions and death. Make us impassible and invincible, by Your holy passion. Liberate us from every abominable, shameful, and blameworthy passion. Grant us that by the experience of Your redeeming passions, make peaceful movements in our minds, and to suppress and put to death the desires of our bodies by Your life- giving death. May we reach the delight (*lit: banquet)* and communion of Your resurrection with joy. And may we rejoice in the hope of immortal life with Your saints. And in Your kingdom, give rest to our departed who have left in Your hope and make them to rejoice in Your bridal chamber, so that we will offer up glory and thanksgiving to You and to Your Father...

ETRO

Christ the sweet odor and the fragrant incense, who offered Yourself to God the Father for us and by Your cross called us from death to life. Look O Lord, now at the supplication of our feebleness. Receive from us sinners this fragrant incense which we offer to You, and by Your loving kindness, grant us forgiveness of debts and sins. Grant to the faithful departed continuous rest and perfect atonement, so that we and they will offer up glory and thanksgiving to You, our Lord and God for ever. Amen.

GREAT AND HOLY THURSDAY (PESHO) | MATINS / SAPRO

Introductory Prayer

Make us worthy, O Lord God, to draw near Your heavenly table and partake of Your holy body and atoning blood, having girded the loins of our souls, lighted the lamps of Your knowledge, supported the postures of our spirits by the rod of Your trust, and having walked without interruption in the narrow paths of Your commandments. Without destruction and harm, may we be protected from within by Your sign. We will offer up glory and praise to You and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit, now and always, forever, and ever.

Prumiyon

Glory to that living sacrifice and the One who receives sacrifices, the atoning hyssop and the purifying sprinkling, who offered Himself on the top of Golgotha for our salvation, and by His sacrifice absolved and sanctified our souls, and persuaded us for the worship of his honor, and redeemed us by His victorious cross, and gave us life by His life-giving death, and raised us by His glorious resurrection, to Him befits...

Sedro

Glory to You and thanksgiving to You, Jesus Christ, power and wisdom of God the Father, the Splendor consubstantial to His Begetter, the joyful Light which gladdened the whole creation, by His incarnation from the virgin, the One who receives the sanctification of the Seraphim, received upon Him passion and death, and reconciled His Father with the guilty Adam. The One who receives sacrifices and offerings, whose love persuaded Him to become a sacrifice for the sinners, and pacified the contention that serpent whistled to Eve among the tress in Paradise. By His sacrifice, the Glorious Priest and the heavenly High Priest granted atonement to our feeble race. The hidden and the invisible One was seen among us and like us, in order to raise us to our former

place. The impassible and the immortal who, by His holy footsteps, treaded a way against death, rooted out curse from earth. The physician of the sick and the one who binds up the wounded and the one who did miracles in the world, at the end of His whole redemptive dispensation approached voluntary passion. Before His voluntary passion, He foretold His chosen and holy disciples: 'I earnestly desired today to eat with You the Passover Lamb of the Law. Today our Lord told His disciples: Go and prepare for me in the Upper room, that I may eat with You this Passover before I suffer. Today a small house was prepared for Him who built the 'House of the world' in the beginning, and spread heaven as its roof, and established earth as its foundation, and made Adam to dwell in it as the head of the families and races. Today the Son of justice went out and took His luminous apostles with Him to celebrate the feast in the night and to eat the lamb in the mystical supper. Today in the evening He made his companions to recline at His table and taught them the new mystery of the Church and showed them the way of truth. Today the heavenly hosts were astonished to see their Lord putting on towel like a servant and inclining His head before the disciples and washing their feet. Today the proud and rebellious demons who rose against our race, ashamed to see the despicable mud and the created clay being honored by its Creator. Today our Lord ate little Passover and became the Great and the True Passover for us and added radiance *(Pesho)* to Passover and mixed the feast with festivity. Today evening our Lord mixed bitterness with the meal of the Passover lamb and the teeth of the apostles were made bitter. Today the disciples passed the evening and night with mourning and sadness, as they heard from their Lord that 'one among You will betray me to the cross, and death and they ate the Supper with suffering and bitterness. Today our Lord sealed *(put an end to)* the Old Law and began to inscribe the New, and to teach the faithful members of His family. Today our Lord broke His body and mixed His blood and divided among the twelve saying to them: This is my holy body and my precious blood. I give You the

pledge of the new life, by which sins will be absolved and the penitents will be sanctified. This is the holy mystery for which the just and the righteous desired and represented its images by their beautiful revelation. This is the holy mystery whose type Abel the innocent lamb, figured by his sacrifice, when he was taken to slaughter as peace offering. This is the holy mystery which Noah the Just indicated in the ark and celebrated its types over deluge. This is the holy and the divine mystery, that Melchizedek the great high priest showed *(lit: rose)* in his order and offered leavened bread and wine in his spiritual ministries to represent it. This is the glorious festival of which Abraham ministered the mystery, on the top of the mountain of Moriah when he became willing to sacrifice his son Isaac, who was redeemed by it from being killed. This is the holy festival that the prophet Moses represented in Egypt by the Passover lamb that he sacrificed and sprinkled its blood on the doors of (houses of) Jacob's children and by it they were rescued from the destroyer who killed all first-borns in the land of Egypt. This is the glorious day that Joshua son of Nun indicated in the plain of Jericho, saying to his people: Slay some among the sheep and oxen and keep Passover for Lord Your God on the evening of the fourteenth of the first month'. This is the great and the holy mystery that the elected Samuel represented by the sucking lamb to the Philistines, who were warriors and uncircumcised. This is the heavenly sacrifice, of which Jephthah *(Syr: Naphthah)* represented the type, by sacrificing his daughter as a votive offering for victory. This is the holy mystery that the prophet Isaiah saw in the Holy of holies when he received the burning coal with the tongs from the Seraph, *(and)* he covered his face not to look at the magnificent mystery. This is the evening in which the evening of Egypt came to an end and the shadows passed and the types of the Law were fulfilled, and all the mysteries and parables were concluded. O this glorious festival which enlightens the world with its divine and spiritual gifts! O this great and wonderful mystery, which was today revealed to the Holy Church! O Holy and chosen day, in which the hope of our

salvation was revealed, which, with its blood purified the door posts of our hearts, and our souls were sanctified by it, and our lips were anointed, more than with the blood of the lamb which withheld the destroyer from the people of Israel. Blessed is the heavenly Passover, which gladdens us by its divine festivity and set us free from the servitude of death and Satan. Blessed is the heavenly bread that came down from the height and mingled His body with our bodies, and mixed His blood with our members, and made us (*His)* brethren and children to His heavenly Begetter. Therefore, we beseech and supplicate You, O Lover of man, who performed and fulfilled all these things for us: O Lord, do not turn our feasts into lamentation and weeping, like *(those of)* the rebellious and unbelieving people. Let Your justice not expel us from the bridal chamber and do not reject us from Your inheritance, as You rejected those who have mocked at You and at Your dispensation. Do not make us strangers to Your intimacy and do not separate us from the reckoning of Your lambs, like Judah the betrayer who became stranger to Your intimacy and separated from the enumeration of the apostles. But receive our ministries and be pleased with our prayers as in the elect Phinehas and the believing king Hezekiah and all those who have pleased You. Receive the fragrant incense that we offer before You in this feast, as the noble priest Aaron, and all Levites, his successors *(bnaitekseh)*. Receive O Lord, as You have received from the great high priest Melchizedek who symbolized a greater mystery that the Church will bring to You offerings, first-fruits and tithes- that are offered by Your sheepfold for Your pleasure in this lordly festival through our hands- we the sinners. Preserve them, from every harm of the evil and from every affliction and rods of wrath. Receive O Lord, the prayer and bowing down of Your people and inheritance, sealed by Your holy name and purchased with Your precious blood. By Your compassion, visit the sick and by Your protecting care, console the afflicted and by Your right hand, support those who are fallen, and by Your hope, those who stand. Upon Your exalted heavenly altar, make good memory and pleasant

commemoration, to our fathers, brethren, teachers and all the faithful departed who left in Your hope and with true faith. May we and they be held worthy of Your eternal and unending feast and unceasing joy. There in the ranks of Your spiritual and heavenly singers, we will together glorify You continuously and Your Father who is impassible and blessed and who sent You for our salvation and Your Holy Spirit, who is consubstantial to You. Now...

ETRO

Your life-giving killing became a sweet incense, pleasant odor, and the censor of reconciliation, O Word of the heavenly Father, and by it, the air, which was polluted by the sacrifice of dumb animals, was purified and the earth was sanctified by the shedding of Your living blood upon it. O Lord, accept this incense that the Holy Church offers to You for the absolution of her children. May it be for Your pleasure and reconciliation and for the preservation of the living and the forgiveness of sins. May these be good memory for the faithful departed who confessed You in their lives and pleased You with their way of life. We will offer up glory and thanksgiving to You and to Your Father...

GREAT AND HOLY THURSDAY (PESHO) | THIRD HOUR

PRUMIYON

Glory to that Exalted and Sublime One in His Essence, who abased His magnificence to the *(extreme)* limit of His humility, the most terrible, mighty and glorious in His hiddenness, and who, in His revelation, showed His humility as the exact way of exaltation, whose fiery ministers are diligent with fear in His ministry, and who, by His grace, served the earthly servants below, at whose glory, those who are above tremble with fear, and who humbled and was diligent in the ministry of His disciples below,

who came towards His creation, not to be served, but to serve and to give Himself for the salvation of many. To Him befits...

SEDRO

God the Word, who is Eternal and beyond time, and is consubstantial to His Father and to the Holy Spirit, by the common will of Your divinity, under the time. You became in the likeness of man, and by Your abundant mercies. You resembled us in everything except sin and fulfilled the entire curse of our nature. When You reached the end of Your dispensation. You wished to take our sufferings by Your natural, true, and innocent sufferings, and to liberate us from them and through them to approach death on the cross, so that by it You may kill sin and death. You were pleased by Your love for humanity to hand over to us the example of the humility of Yours - the Immortal One through Your true disciples. Like a contemptible man. You took a towel and girded your waist *(with it)*. You washed their feet and by You the mystery of love was given to us more clearly as a deposit. For this treasure of Your grace, may we be held worthy to offer to Your grace the fruits of glorification, praise and thanksgiving which pleases You. We beseech You, our Lord, to hold us worthy to fix perfectly in our souls the image of Your mysteries. May we fulfill Your salvific commandments with humble mind, so that as we follow the footsteps of Your teaching, may we also wash the feet mutually. With supplication, we beseech Your kindness, along with the washing of our feet of the flesh, wash and purify each of our evil manner which, by hidden and revealed mental impulses have taken place in us by the work of the inner enemies. Grant us that we may be perfected in Your true discipleship, so that having been fully liberated and purified our footsteps from the bites and wounds of the incorporeal serpent, and trample it and its power with courage and strength, and may we be united by Orthodox faith, and by the evangelical commandments and by the perfection of love, peace and tranquility

which You have given to Your holy disciples. With them, may we reach the inheritance of blessedness that are preserved and prepared there, by their holy prayers, and with You we will offer up glory and honor and worship to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit. Now…

ETRO

The Exalted One who humbled Himself to give the beautiful example by His person, receive O Lord, this incense that we offer before You now. Hold us worthy to wash away the hidden dirt of sin from the hidden members of our souls, and may we become pure and unblemished. Hold us worthy to rejoice in Your glorious resurrection, and to sing pure praises to You, Our Lord and God, forever.

GREAT AND HOLY THURSDAY (PESHO) | SIXTH HOUR

[On the Sinful woman]

PRUMIYON

Glory to that merciful Lord, who is concerned about life and salvation of all and who always thirsts and desires for the voice of those who beseech, knocking at His door, to Him, who called that woman, who was sinful, defiled and harlot, to come, in order to purify her from the impurity of her sins, and to fill her with His holiness, to Him who received her tears like an offering and her weeping like first-fruit and her supplication like the living and rational sacrifice, who reproved Simon the Pharisee of his hesitation, and hindered the disciples from their disapproval, and praised her faith before all and forgave the multitude of her sins, and commanded that her act of great discernment shall be preached in His Universal Gospel, for the encouragement of sinners. To Him who saw her and received by His grace, let us praise *(him)* and exult now…

SEDRO

Christ our God, Ocean of compassion and the unfathomable abyss of mercies, the Wise Physician of the souls and the bodies of weak and sinful men, who was sent by His Father to the world, towards those who were very badly suffering and affected by sores and various infirmities. Who, by Your love for humanity inclined voluntarily from the heights of Your Magnificence for the sake of those who were lost, and to provide help to the afflicted, to bind up the fractured, with medicines, to enlighten with Your rays those who are in darkness, to lift up by Your power those who are fallen, to purify with Your holiness those who are defiled, by Your grace to gather together those who are away to the Father, by Your strength, to redeem from the evil those who are yoked under his yard yoke, and are immersed in the vain thoughts of the world, by Your compassion to console those who are trampled by great sins, and You did such things and more than them for us poor, sinners, evil-doers and rejected, the earthly and unworthy. Among these wonderful things that You granted, Your mercies invited You to the house of Simon, that Pharisee whom You saved by Your lordly word from contemptible leprosy, to sit down with him for a meal. Then Your compassion was pleased with a sinful woman, who was full of immodesty and defilement. Having heard about Your abundant mercies and helps towards everyone, with no hatred even towards defiled women who take refuge in Your mercies, as the Good and Compassionate Lord, You have compassion and grant them these things *(mercies and helps),* with great and true repentance, fervent faith, *(taking)* fine oil with pure repentance and courage, she ran thither where You are, and she knocked at the door of Your mercies. And she entered Simon's house and *(approached)* You boldly, and she poured the precious Myron upon Your honorable head. What she had gained through the trade of wickedness and sin,

she poured out on You, Who is able to take away by His own person the sin of the entire world. She took hold of Your holy and pure feet with her defiled hands, and with weeping, she kissed them with her impure lips, with her fervent and sincere love. With tears of sorrow, she moistened them and with her hair, she wiped them, and she asked absolution and purity for her person, saying: 'Look at Your maid servant, and the creation of Your hands, O Lord behold, who is taken away by the cruel robber. Rescue her, O Good One, from him without damage; O Good Shepherd who came for the sake of the lost sheep. Seek the lost sheep, and by Your compassion, deliver her from the teeth of the devastating wolf. Rescue her from the ravenous vulture and the snare of the deceitful hunter and from the cunning hawk. Make her an innocent dove in Your nest and chaste turtle dove in Your house and a beloved spar¬ row near Your altar *(cfr. Ps. 84:3?)* Lift the one who is immersed in the ocean of debts and the abyss of evil, the wretched one from the pits of defilement and from the depth of hateful wantonness. Cleanse the defiled with Your hyssop that whitens the polluted and sanctify her by Your sanctity that sanctifies the unclean. Wash her thoroughly from her great iniquity and may Your grace increase in her. For O Lord, You have said: I have come for the sake of the sheep and the ewes lost from the house of Israel, in order to bring them back to Your exalted sheepfold. My Lord, You have said: Call and I will answer, knock, I will open; ask. You will receive; seek You will find. Behold, I knock at Your door and gaze upon Your compassion. Hear me and answer me! Turn to my imploring and give ear to my sigh. See my servitude and forgive me all *(my)* iniquities. Behold, my Lord, my enemy desires to break me down. Behold, he who hates me thirsts for my destruction. Let him not rejoice in me, seeing that I have left with shame. Let him not exult, seeing that I have left without being received *(by You)*. Let him not dance in festivity with his army, seeing that I went from Your presence with sorrow. Let him not mock *(gho)* me seeing that 1 have departed from Your presence without being delivered from him. Let him not mock

(basah) me, seeing that I have not escaped from his snares. Let him not mock *(muq)* me, seeing that I have not cut off his bonds and nets and broken his snares. My Lord do not forsake me under his rebuke, to be blamed for my coming towards You. I have endured a lot from him secretly and openly. He frightened *(ciahel)* me very much of meeting You. He made me afraid *(srah)* of Your presence. He hindered me very much in meeting You. Now O Lord, since I have seen Your compassion, loose me from the yoke of his frenzy. My Lord, as I have realized Your graciousness now, increase on me Your love for humanity. Put the seal of Your truth on me that he might be ashamed. Put Your sign of life on me that on seeing it, he might flee. Number me with Your flock, lest he not assault me anymore. Introduce me to Your enclosure, lest he dare to *(attack)* my feebleness. O Lord, I am a sinful woman, and I am completely immersed in defilement. May I not leave from Your presence as I entered as defiled, but as justified, holy and liberated from every impurity. My Lord, everyone who saw You have received, according to his faith. Likewise, grant me also! My Lord, may I become Yours, now onwards and forever. May Your Blessed Father and Your life-giving Spirit and Your holy angels rejoice in me! We also, O Lord, beseech like her, to hold us, as well as all the children of the holy Church, worthy, to offer You true repentance with sorrowful tears, sighs of laments, true remorse, noble change, firm faith, unconfused hope, guileless love, pure desires and may we be held worthy to hear from You the pleasing voice, and full of relief, which you told her with love: 'Woman, go! Your faith has given You life! Your sins have been forgiven because You have loved (*me)* very much!' Like her, may we leave Your presence, rejoicing and exulting with the forgiveness of our manifold sins. On account of all Your favors towards us, we offer up praise, thanksgiving and repeated glory to You and to Your Holy Spirit. Now....

[No 'Etro]

GREAT AND HOLY THURSDAY (PESHO) | NINTH HOUR

PRUMIYON

Glory to You and thanksgiving to You, the Mystery of life, for You have handed over the awesome mysteries to Your congregation and wrote the new covenant in Your blood and entrusted *(it)* to the Church, Your bride. You gave Your life-giving body as food for Your sheepfold, and You made Your vivifying blood as drink for Your flock. You demonstrated the example of voluntary humiliation to the beloved company of Your twelve. You fulfilled the old things through the lamb with which Moses represented You, and You began the new things through the breaking our Your holy body, that we also may enjoy with Your heavenly mysteries and rejoice in Your gladdening Passover. We will offer up glory and thanksgiving to You, in this time....

SEDRO

Christ our God, the gladdening Passover, and the one who causes the sorrows to pass away, the mystery of life and truth, who was represented and symbolized in Egypt by the Prophet Moses, in the lamb, which was slain in the evening, whose blood was smeared on the door, with which the people were redeemed from the destroyer and rescued from slaughter. It is not possible to have salvation for the world through the lamb of Moses, but by You, who are the Living Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. But You fulfilled this type and rooted up the old shadows and removed the Law -the fruitless tree. When You ate the lamb with Your holy apostles, You humbled Yourself and washed their feet. Through the eating of the lamb and washing of the feet.

You demonstrated that the old things are removed and were purified *(lit: washed),* the shadow passed and instead of it, truth has entered. You taught Your disciples the example of humility, and You indicated the mystery of Your slaughter to them, for the supper was a mystery. And by it. You handed over the new mystery to Your disciples. By it the deceitful disciple was exposed, and the head of the apostles was made ready to renounce and to swear that he does not know You. You took bread in Your holy hands and divided *(it)* among them and demonstrated the sign of Your sacrifice on Golgotha for the life of the world. And You mixed the cup from wine and water and indicated that through the pouring forth of Your blood and from Your holy side, the purification of the sins of the world will take place and *(commanded):* 'Do this for the memory of my death'. Glory to You, for You gave us Your living body as food. Glory to You, for You gave Your innocent blood as drink. Glory to You, who voluntarily came for death. Glory to You, for You were suspended on the cross. Therefore, we beseech You to hold us worthy for the communion of Your mysteries, with purity and holiness, and with wakefulness and purity, may we suffer and keep vigil in the night in which You suffered an kept vigil. May our heart be washed from iniquity'. May our inner man be purified from the dirt of sin. May our minds be cleansed from every defilement an impurity. May we become 'the sons of the mysteries' and those who keep the 'deposit of the mysteries'. May we not be companions *(lit: sons of mysteries)* of the Jews, like Judas who became *(Your)* companion *(bar rozo)* and approached the terrible mystery with pride and betrayed You with a deceitful kiss. Let none of us become unworthy for this grace. But with one concord, may we be held worthy to offer thanksgiving and praise to You and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit. Now...

Etro

The fattened bull, who by the offering *(lit: slaughter)* of His sacrifice removed from earth all sacrifices and libations of idolatry, and by His passion, put the passions of the human race to death, and by His cross, killed the one who killed our father Adam in the Paradise, and by His resurrection, raised us from the fall of sin, from our feebleness, receive this fragrant incense, that is offered to Your Lordship. Remove from us enmity, wrath, and strife. Make Your tranquility and peace to reign over us, Christ, our Lord, and God, who is always the indivisible peace, forever.

GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY | VESPERS / RAMSHO

The Order of the Mystical Evening

INTRODUCTORY PRAYER:

O Lord, equip our bodies with holiness, our souls with faith, and our minds with divine wisdom. Grant us that with purity of chaste thoughts, purity of humble manner, and sincerity of upright dealings, we may be held worthy to approach Your heavenly table and to commune in Your body and blood, which confer immortality, in this festival of our salvation as well as in all the days of our lives, now and always, forever, and ever.

PRUMIYON

The One who receives sacrifices and the Lord of the high priests, who was pleased to become the sacrifice and the priest, and the One who perfects the types and seals the mysteries, in this evening fulfilled the writing *(surtho)* of Moses and offered Himself to His Father as an acceptable offering. The inscrutable wonder divided with His hands - while He is alive – and mixed His blood for the apostles. To Him befits....

SEDRO

Christ our God, the Great Sun of justice and the True and Eternal Light from the Father, who illuminates every man who comes to this world, who fills everything with the light

of His divine knowledge, who in the end of the age *(lit: evening of the age)* came down in the flesh, in order to illuminate the creation darkened by error. In this evening of the Law -in this evening of the Passover - You have fulfilled all those things of the Law in Your person. You did manifest the light of 'the Gospel of Light'. The icon and image, represented figuratively with the evening of Moses in Egypt, were given correct interpretation in Your evening full of light. For in this evening. You who are the Passover, who makes all to rejoice with the delightful splendor of Your divinity, did eat with earnest desire the Passover of the Law with Your disciple. In this evening. You perfected the Lamb of the mysteries -You who are the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the entire world, ate this with bitterness, with Your companions, and approached the bitter cup of death. In this evening, which is the boundary of both the testaments, the Old was brought to pass and the New was begun. In this evening. You had shown the excellent way of exaltation by great humility, washing the feet of Your holy disciples with love, and wiping them with the towel girded around Your waist, with love for humanity. You have handed over to them this beautiful example and taught them the gentle graciousness. In this evening, with Your holy hands You divided Your life-giving body and gave Your companions to eat, and You mixed Your lordly *(moronoyo)* blood and gave them to drink and in it the New Covenant was confirmed for You bride, the Holy Church. In this evening, with the bread, which was dipped, the deceit of Judah was made public, and his impudence was revealed to the innocent disciples. In this evening. You saved the dumb animals from the knife of the sacrifices and removed *(it)* by Your own Living Sacrifice. In this evening You put the shadows and figures to silence, and clearly revealed and placed *(them)* before us. In this evening, Levi abandoned his ministry and Aaron took leave from his peace-offerings. In this evening, the priesthood was handed over to the noble company of Simon, and they began to take charge over the divine treasury and to divide Your living body among the peoples of the earth and

to give to drink Your pure blood to families and races. Behold today, in this evening, it has been given in all borders and regions for the forgiveness of debts and sins, according to the Lord's commandment. Therefore, we beseech You, Christ our Lord, in this evening full of wonder in which the figurative law was brought to an end, and was removed to have place for the spread of the New and the Holy Gospel of Truth, hold us worthy to participate in the awesome divine table with purity and holiness, having been delivered from bitterness and anger and jealousy, and our thoughts being cleared from tumults of malice and deceit of *(Judas)* Iscariot, and our conscience cleansed by the purifying washing of the admirable repentance of the debts and sins, and our souls being divinely bound by mutual affection and love, and our minds being illuminated by the splendor and rays of Your divine teaching. May Your life-giving mysteries be not for our condemnation, but for the remission of the debts, pardon of sins, and the cleansing of (our) souls and bodies from every filthy and shameful thing and from every defect, defilement as well as for the elevation of minds towards sublime wisdom, and their *(bodies and souls)* enlightenment by the divine rays and splendor. May we become constant dwellers in You and You in us. May we completely become perfect people of Your Unique Father, and we will offer up glory and praise to You and to Your Holy Father, and to Your Life-giving Spirit. Now...

ETRO

Christ our God, we offer this fragrant incense to You and entreat Your loving kindness to make us worthy that with purity, we may celebrate the feast of the conclusion of the Old *(Covenant)* and the beginning of the New, and Your holy body and Your innocent blood be mixed with our souls, and it may be for the remission of al our transgressions, and for the rest of our faithful departed. We and they will offer You glory and praise and to Your Father.

GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY | COMPLINE / SOUTORO

PRUMIYON

The Judge of the judges was judged, and by His silence, He justified our guilt. The Savior gave His body for blows and his cheeks for slaps and repaid our debts with stripes, and caused suffering to our sufferings by His passion, and bore our curse by His crown, and banished our killing by His slaughter, and killed our death by His death. To Him befits glory and praise...

SEDRO

Glory to You, God the Word, the Only Begotten from the Father, who by Your own good will, and by the operation of Your Holy Spirit- who is consubstantial to You - united with flesh consubstantial *(bar kyono)* to us, in an indivisible union. You became like us in everything, except sin, and divinely and humanly dealt with us. By sufferings and death and the completion of the entire redeeming economy. You did completely repay the debts of our human race and did show us the entrance to the new life, by abolishing death, Satan, and sin. By act, truly You came for redeeming passion, in order to write down newly the Covenant for us by Your blood. For our salvation. You endured humiliation, passion, insult, shame and mocking from the cruelty of the Jews, the enemies of truth and the associates *(baithoye)* of the adversary. Because of Your abundant mercies, and rich compassion for the guilty Adam, today You came down to suffer voluntarily, in order to liberate him from the punishment for the transgression of the

Law. You had announced beforehand and fulfilled in Your person the exact image full of salvation -which was formerly represented by Your servant Moses in Egypt. In the evening of Your salvation, You had fulfilled it before the apostolic band in that Upper room full of signs and life-giving mysteries *(roze)* of Your Holy Church. You had concluded the Old in the Lamb and begun the New in the bread. You had given us Your body and blood in that Thurs day of the Mysteries and have become for us food and drink *(lit: eatable and drinkable)* for remission of debts. You had inclined Your head for the kiss of deceit, and You were captured by the accursed Jewish people. By Your voluntary humility. You came for the humiliation of the cross, and entered the tribunal on the sixth day, in order to deliver us from the hard punishment and judgement upon us. You were struck on Your cheek by the insolent servant in order to liberate us from the servitude of sin. You were judged like an offender, and You justified our race which was guilty. You were *(ordered to be)* scourged with thongs by the Judge Pilate and You paid the debt of the head of our family, who was guilty. By the spittle which You had received on Your face for the impure people on this Friday, You removed from us the great shame that was ruling over us due to the transgression of the commandment. You had put on the scarlet robe, with humiliation and mocking of the Jews in order to clothe us with the Holy Spirit, from whom we were stripped off in the woods by the jealousy of the serpent. By the thorn of Your crown. You did up rooted sin that had sown death in our members. By the cane of mockery that the priests of the people gave You to hold. You had written our names in Your Book of Life. You were suspended naked on the top of the wood and by the stripping of Your body *(lit: flesh)* You had exposed and put him to shame, the head of the evil and the father of falsehood, who was watching over air, and covered the nakedness of Adam. Instead of the hand which plucked the fruit and brought death into the world and made it ruler over all races. You gave Your holy hands for the nails and Your innocent feet for the iron fetters. You drank vinegar and tasted

gall, instead of the food from that deadly tree. You were counted with wicked and humiliated among the thieves in order to remove the humiliation of Adam. You had perfected and completed in Your person all that were represented and indicated beforehand by the prophets of Your Father. You said: 'Behold, everything has been fulfilled' and inclined Your head and handed over Your spirit. We beseech You, O Lord, Lover of man, who have accomplished all this dispensation with love for humanity, for our salvation. Remembering Your abasement beyond words, and Your voluntary and innocent sufferings, renew Your abundant mercies for us on this sorrowful day of Your redemptive passion. By Your victorious cross, here and there, and everywhere, protect Your Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church, which worships Your sufferings with innocent faith and confesses Your human actions, and acknowledges You as the True God over all. We supplicate You with this fragrant incense which is offered by us – the wretched and feeble - at this moment in which we celebrate the memory of Your sufferings, with which our iniquities have been blotted out, grant us remission of debts and forgiveness of sins- with which we were defiled voluntarily or involuntarily, knowingly, or unknowingly. Keep us before You with innocent and pure life all the days of our life until the end of the world, and we also, may we entrust our souls into the hands of Your Holy Father with confidence. May we offer glory and praise to You and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit in that day of Your glorious second coming with the great and the redeeming sign of Your life-giving cross. Now…

[No 'etro]

Great and Holy Friday | Night / Lilyo: First Qaumo

Introductory Prayer

Awaken us, Lord, from our sleep in the sloth of sin that we may praise your watchfulness, You who watch and do not sleep; give life to our death in the sleep of death and corruption, that we may adore Your compassion, You who live and do not die; grant us in the glorious company of the angels who praise You in heaven, to praise You and bless you in holiness, because You are praised and blessed in heaven and on earth, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and always and forever.

PRUMIYON

To Him who receives the prayers and stood in prayer for us, the One who hears supplication, for us, offered supplication to His Father with sorrow; the One before whom every knee bends, knelt down for us before His Father with sigh, the one who decreed food for Adam with sweat, sweated clots of blood in the fight against the enemy, the Courageous One who feared in order to grant us courage, the one who removes our grief, and the Lord of our joy who grieved and mourned until the death, in order to blot out our sadness and mourning, to Him befits...

SEDRO

Glory to You and praise to You, O Lord of the heaven and the earth, God and Savior of our souls, the helper of our weakness, and the caretaker of our poverty, Jesus Christ, on account of the fall of our feebleness by the transgression of the commandment. You came *(down)* for voluntary abasement, and human sufferings, in order to set us free from abominable and unlawful acts. You came for death on the cross and showed great obedience, and mournfully endured fear, grief, and sorrow. You had earnestly offered prayer and supplication before Your Father with groaning. You supplicated Him, if possible, the cup of bitter death may be removed from You; if not possible. You consented that let His will be done. You made known that truly and voluntarily You

suffered in the body, and it was not by phantasy or illusion, and received comforting from the angels. You had taught us not to slumber in temptations that come upon us, but to seek refuge and help with intense prayers from the broken heart, not to dare to face death with pride, but to approach the fight with humility, and to be strengthened by the heavenly hosts, who are always sent by You for our help. May we live for you our entire way of life on earth according to the will of the heavenly Father, for You have died for us, and not for You. By exhorting the apostles to be watchful. You have taught us prayer. You who are not in need of prayer, had prayed for us, and not for You. Neither You have committed sin nor deceit is found in Your mouth. But You are eternally the One who receives prayers with Your Father. You did pray that our prayers shall be received, and You did kneel down in order to raise us from the fall of sin and the worship of the idols. O Holy One, You did fear, while the fire above is afraid of You. You have gained courage for us, and You became wearied, in order to set us free from the terrible grief. You became sad and You made our sadness a joy. You have sweated clots of blood to wipe out the sweat of Adam. By all these things that You have endured voluntarily, You made the authorities of this world, the hosts of the enemy, amazed. They did not understand You. By Your fear and Your flight from death, wisely You deceived the prince of error, the rebellious, cruel, and most the cunning among all animals, for he had deceived the simple-minded Adam, the head of our creation, with the hope in eternal life. That which was written in the prophecy was fulfilled: 'he was struck with the blow which he had struck, and the killing *(with)* which he had killed, he was killed'. For You had caught the dragon in Your snare. You had broken his teeth in his mouth, and You have uprooted the canine teeth of the powerful lion, like flowing water *(sic).* You made the deaf, contemptible, and abominable *(beast)* -who shut his ears not to hear the voice of the charmer and magician, and destroyed his numerous canine teeth in various shapes, and shot the arrows of Your incarnation until he perished. Like wax, he melted

down before the fire of Your divinity and was burned up. The wrath troubled the wicked and he gnashed his teeth and disappeared. His desire perished in his wickedness. Then the righteous saw his reward and said: Ha, ha, our eye has seen it. There is God to judge them on earth, for You have judged him according to the justice worthy of him. You took vengeance upon him for Adam. He has fallen in the pit which he dug up and made and he was caught up in the trench which he prepared. His wickedness came back completely upon his head and his iniquity descended fully upon the crown of his head. In Your death, he experienced a sorrow that does not find consolation. Through him, the entire Sheol became embittered at Your entry. O Lord, we Your servants, weak and sinful, who has been set free from his heavy yoke, beseech You with this fragrant incense, rescue and redeem us always from all perversities, and deliver us every time from all severe temptations that are beyond our strength. Encourage us always, for the prayers pleasing to Your divinity, and support us with Your help. May the powerful protection of Your angels encircle us. Prepare us to keep Your commandments and to do Your will, and of Your Father and of Your Holy Spirit. Now...

[NO 'ETRO]

GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY | NIGHT / LILYO: SECOND QAUMO

PRUMIYON

To that Savior, who by His cross, brought the rejected back to their inheritance and removed shame from the guilty, and clothed the exposed with their dresses, and covered the nakedness of their humanity, and expelled the darkness of their ignorance, and enlightened the creation with his crucifixion. To Him befits...

SEDRO

Christ our God is Son and Lord and is Consubstantial to His Father. He was and is from the Father, who when consented to send Him to the world, in order to repay the old debt of the great bond. He was convoked and came to the tribunal because of the death sentence which was decreed against us. He was led and entered to be imprisoned. He was beaten and He stood for being questioned. He was silent and accepted the old guilt. He lifted up His face to the height of humility and received spittle and made His back ready for whip and gave His cheeks for blows. He gave His body for wounds and was insulted with garments of mocking. He was struck on His head with a rod of shame. He carried His cross on His shoulder like a guilty man. He was counted with the wicked as an evil doer. His hands and feet were nailed on the cross. He is naked and crowned with thorns. He has been led and endured sufferings. He is thirsty for water and vinegar and gall were given to Him. He cries with sorrow and His groaning is not heard from the cross. With all these, the upright *(receive)* his helps. The family of Pilate bears witness to His truth. In three languages. He was interpreted as king. The judges cry out that He is the Lord of the creation. The earth quakes: the universe trembles and the rocks break out; the tombs are opened; the dead rise; Sheol is destroyed; the Sun veils its light; the veil *(of the sanctuary)* is torn at the shaking; the elements *(of the earth)* are terrified and shiver with fear, that they will be separated from one another. The ramparts of perdition tremble. Commotion of the living is heard in the land of the dead. The death is being trampled in its threshold by the multitude, that hastens to go out. The earth trembles with fear that it will be dissolved at the sight of its Lord on the cross. Terrible events take place. Amazing powers are manifested. The earth and the heaven are troubled and seek place to flee. All kinds of wonders are seen in the creation, announcing that the one who is crucified is the Lord of the angels. All *(these)* sufferings and powers are of the one qnuma of the Only Begotten Son. Behold His Gospel is brought to everywhere. Behold His teaching has been sown in every quarter. All people and all races are caught by His

net. All powers run towards His door, and all ranks worship before His doorstep. Every mouth eats His body, and every tongue tastes His blood. Every sound sings His glory; from every quarter they come for His worship. Every tongue confesses that Jesus is Lord. We glorify and worship Him and His Father and His Holy Spirit. Now…

[No 'Etro]

Great and Holy Friday | Night / Lilyo: Third Qaumo

Prumiyon

To that Exalted One, who came down for our salvation, while remaining above, and emptied Himself from His fullness without leaving *(it)*, the simple one who became composite, while remaining in His spiritual nature and continued *(in it)*, the Judge of judges, who was judged and acquitted our guilt, and repaid our debts by His torments, and caused suffering to the sufferings of our nature by His passion, and bore our curse by His crown, and drove away our death by His *(own)* death, was crucified and died in the body, and put our death to death by His death, to Him befits....

Sedro

O hidden and ineffable being, who was born from the hidden bosom of His Father beyond time and without the flow of desire, because of our fall, put on body and became one nature *(had kyono)* from divinity and humanity that cannot be tempted by evil, and determined to regain us and endured all human things by royal freedom, and not by compulsion. You have performed all that were inscribed by the Spirit- who is consubstantial to You, and observed the Mosaic Passover and showed us the new mystery and began the new *(mystery)* by the breaking of Your precious body and the shedding of Your life-giving blood. Then without fear. You have prepared for You the way of passion, and like a lamb. You approached the sacrifice. Without bringing forth

the fervor of Your divinity. You remained silent like an ewe before a shearer. Oh! The Lord suffers indignities! Oh! The King is buffeted with whip! Oh! The One who upholds the world is being judged like a guilty One! The earthly one threatens, and the Son of God suffers in the flesh! Judah betrays and Jesus suffers. Satan boasts saying that the Savior of all will be killed now and he who has conquered Adam will not be defeated. Behold the renewal of the salvation is perfectly accomplished by the suffering of the Almighty. Behold the present sadness invites joy and pain. With great love John enters the courtyard and with Jesus and *(stands)* terrified. Simon renounces, Thomas flees; John is not there, Judah become a stranger; Hanna's people prepare the cross. The serpent is utterly crushed. Vinegar is being mixed, and the crown is being plaited; the sword is being sharpened; nails are being prepared. Behold, how much the Savior is humbled for a while, and we become victorious. Now Jerusalem, the haughty daughter, will sit in mourning and her companion Sheol will perish. Now those who have been subjected to You are being saved. Behold the new Church that You have redeemed with Your blood, honors You, and she moistens Your wounds with her tears. She entreats You to protect her and her children from all the snares of the adversary and the destructive deceits of men and the wrath of the rebellious and the disobedient. Confirm her that by the firm unity of love she may be bound with You. Rescue her from every harm. May she and her children be protected under Your wings, so that she might praise, worship, and glorify You who did suffer for her and saved her, and our Father, the Begetter who reconciled with her through You, and to Your Holy Spirit who enriches her with His gifts, with¬ out measure. Now...

[No 'Etro]

Great and Holy Friday | Night / Lilyo: Fourth Qaumo

PRUMIYON

To that Good Shepherd who gave Himself for slaughter and saved His sheepfold from the devouring wolves, the Gracious One who endured sufferings from the impure and taught praises to His worshippers, the Free One who subjected Himself to the human limitation *(surqo: emptying)* and received insult and death and saved the world. To him befits....

SEDRO

Christ, our God, the Only Begotten from the Father, the Word *(existing)* before the worlds, the Creator of all. Light from the Light, God from God, Wisdom, Word, Life, and icon of the invisible Father; the invisible one was seen in the flesh, the incomprehensible was perceived in the body, the ineffable one voluntarily confined Himself to perceptibility, the incomprehensible One was pleased to be humble, and came down in order to exalt us, the wretched and the poor. The immortal One inclined Himself towards the mortals, in order to liberate them from death and sin. The Lord came to His own people, and they did not receive Him, but rejected Him and crucified Him outside the vineyard. He is hung on the cross and they are burning with wrath. He is in suffering, and they are inflamed by wrath. He is nailed and jealousy burns in them. His side is pierced with spear, and life is promised to the mortals. The angels are stupefied, and the children of Adam are redeemed. The demons are terrified, and the demoniacs prostrate. The righteous one was numbered among the wicked. The upright was counted with evil doers. God is with the robber, and Life Giver is with the murderers. Witness speaks falsehood and deceit. They ask Him, what they do not know. One bears witness, saying: 'He said: I shall destroy the temple'. And another *(said)* that he violated Sabbath and the Law, and He says about Himself that He is the Son of God. One slaps on His cheek, and another spits on His face. One kisses *(him)* and betrays.

Another says that He does not know Him. Some of them bring Him down to beat Him. Some others strike Him on the back. Some of them kneel down and worship Him. Others called Him king of the Jews. One strips Him off the festal garments and another one, clothed Him with those of mocking. One places a crown of thorn on *(His head)* instead of a diadem. Another gives Him a rod, instead of a scepter of kingship. One struck on His head, and another mixed vinegar and gall with anger. One stretched Him on the wood, and another fastened His hands and feet with nails. One says: 'If You are the Son of God, save Yourself. Another beseeched: 'Remember me, when You come in Your kingdom!' One said: 'Come down from the cross, and we will believe in You'. Another confesses that He was truly the Son of God. The soldiers mocked at Him, and the Jews blasphemed. The high priests shook their heads at Him. Caiaphas and Hannah gave advice; voices from every side cried out: 'Crucify him! Crucify him, O judge!' O inexplicable wonder! O exalted explanation *(phushoqo)* God is crucified! Sun becomes dark! The veil of the temple is torn! Blood and water flow from the side! Rocks burst open! Earth quakes! The dead are risen! judas receives money! Caiaphas gives advice! Hannah accuses! Pilate sits and our Lord stands! Therefore, let us glorify Him, who has been known through all these wonders, for He is the Lord of glory. Let us bow down *(before)* Him who was suspended on the tree and became a curse for our sake. Let us be familiar with Him who has established all the borders and quarters of the earth. Let us draw near to Him who was crucified and let us put trust in Him, that our faces shall not be ashamed, but illuminated. Let us worship the footstool of the Exalted One, who humbled Himself for us. Let us beseech His graciousness to save us without delay from all our enemies and hard afflictions that surround us. As we commemorate His voluntary sufferings which He had suffered for us, let us cry out and say from the bottom of our mind: Lord (You) who have been crucified for us, have mercy upon us! Holy, Holy, Holy art Thou, O Lord, who have been crucified for us and have redeemed

us. Give heed to us and answer our requests! Give joy to us from our sorrows. Raise us at Your right hand, when You manifest with the victorious sign of the cross, and You adorn those who have honored You gloriously, with the great joy of Your kingdom. There with the multitude of Your saints, we will offer up glory and thanksgiving to You and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit...

[NO 'ETRO]

GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY | MATINS / SAPRO

PRUMIYON

To that Great Savior, who was, by His own will, led to the tribunal from the prison, like a lamb for slaughter, and who, like a sheep before the shearer, remained silent before the Judge Pilate, and did not open His mouth because of His humility as He was pleased, to that Judge of judges, who was unjustly condemned to death in the tribunal of the evil doers, and by His grace acquitted us from the condemnation of sin, to Him who, being exalted in His honor, was insulted and mocked, and did not turn His face away from shame, and by His loving kindness, set us free from the shame, to that Glorious One who received impure spittle on His face from the insolent and granted confidence and boldness to Adam who transgressed the commandment and restored him to his inheritance, to Him....

SEDRO

God the Word, who was divinely born from the bosom of the Father before times, and in the end of the days manifested in a human way from the Holy Virgin Mary, fulfilled in His Person all the prophesies of the prophets and the parables of the seers. Today the mystery hidden from generations and races was revealed in the midst of the universe.

The One before whose splendor the fiery and the ranks of the heavenly hosts shrink with fear, was seen today on earth by His humility. The One before whose splendor the angels and the archangels tremble, was today seized by the earthly one. The One who is carried by the Cherubim and sanctified by the Seraphim, was today mocked by the cursed clay. The One to whose glory, the heavenly hosts are unable to approach, was dishonored today by the servants. In this Friday morning, Pilate sat in the royal palace, and Jesus stood before him, bound as a culprit. Today the unclean spitted on the face of Him, for whom even the glorification of the heaven is little. The One, whose glory is proclaimed by the heaven and the heavens of heaven, was today scourged with thongs. This morning, the One before whom every flesh stands for prayer, was interrogated. The One who stretched out the heaven like a curtain, and spread out the earth upon waters, was condemned today by Pilate the Judge. On Friday morning. He made Adam king in Paradise, and on Friday morning, the decree to kill Jesus was confirmed. On Friday morning, Adam was created and on Friday morning, his Maker was condemned for him by his children. On Friday morning, Adam was lost to his Master, and on Friday morning, his master was scourged for him. The One, who by His word weighs the mountains and confines the oceans with sand, was imprisoned today in the tribunal. The one who gives the faculty of speech to every rational being, was taken to the house of Hannah and was imprisoned. Today, before the judge. He remained silent and quiet without speaking. In the heights above the watchers shrink with fear; and here in the depths below, those who are below, mock at Him! In the heights above, the Cherubim bless Him, and here below, the wicked treat Him with insult! In the heights above, the Seraphim sanctify Him, and here below the insolent revile Him! The One, who is dressed with light as a mantle in the heights above, has put on a robe of shame here below! The one whom the chariots of fire extol in the heights above, has been nailed on the wood of cross here below. The one who is praised and glorified with His Father in the heights

above, is counted among the evildoers here below! The one who is in the heights above, the King of kings and the one who plaits crowns for the rulers, was crowned with a crown of thorns here below! The One who is honored in the heights above by the rational wheels, was crucified here below between the robbers! The One who is seated in the heights above with the Father and the Spirit on the throne of His Majesty, gave Himself here below for insult and humiliation! In the heights above, the One who commanded the Cherub to keep guard over the tree of life, here below. His side was pierced with a spear! In the heights above, the One whose gesture made the bitter water of Marah sweet, here below, gall and vinegar were extended to Him. In the heights above, the One who breathed the Spirit of Life into Adam, here below, descended into Sheol like a dead and counted among the departed. Therefore, while offering thanksgiving to You over this fragrant incense, we worship You, saying: Glory to You O God, whose judgements are never comprehensible. Glory to You, for Your humility. Glory to You, O God, who suffered in the flesh for us. Glory to You, who was crucified. Glory to You, who died and gave us life. Glory to You, who was placed in the tomb. Glory to You, who rose with glory, and made us to ascend with You towards Your Father. We confess Your humanity and praise Your divinity. In this morning in which all things for our salvation were completed. To You, O God the Word, who have realized this whole economy for our salvation, we beseech over this fragrant incense which is offered before You by our weakness, in the day of the commemoration of Your Passion, Crucifixion and Death for us: hold us worthy to suffer in Your passion, and to imitate Your humility, and to exult in Your resurrection, and to sing praise in Your kingdom, and to rejoice with all those who have done Your will; by Your grace, and by the good pleasure of Your Father and by the operation of Your Holy Spirit, now...

ETRO

Glory to You, the absolving sacrifice, which was offered on the wood, thanksgiving to You, the reconciliatory censer which exhaled the fragrance of Your killing in the creation. Your Church was purified by You from the defilement of sin and from the filthy sacrifices as well as from the abomination of paganism. You are glorified our Redeemer, for by Your blood, we were redeemed from death and corruption. We worship Your cross and we confess Your passions, and we are given life by Your cross and we are set free by Your death. Great are Your helps and the humble glorification from us is inadequate for You. Glory to You from everything that You have created and redeemed. Now....

GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY | THIRD HOUR

PRUMIYON

To that Holy One who saved us, the Redeemer of our lives, the Living Lamb and the Giver of Life who took away our sins by His sacrifice, who by His life-giving passion, has set us free from the tyranny of the evil, who by His life giving death, delivered us from the hands of death, who by His redeeming cross, restored us to our former inheritance, which we had lost, to Him befits...

SEDRO

God who is the wise architect, by Your commandment, has created Adam on the sixth day of Friday, and formed the image of your greatness in him, and entrusted him with Paradise, the place of joy and all blessings. And by his freedom, he gave heed to the advice of woman and transgressed Your divine commandment. On this day of Friday, Adam was expelled from Paradise and sent to exile. But You, O Lord, by Your grace, had compassion and mercy on him, upon his miserable fall. On this same Friday, You came for passion, cross and death. On this Friday, the partisans of Hannah and Caiaphas

cried out: Crucify him! Crucify him! On this Friday, the wicked judges condemned You, who are the Lord of all! On this Friday, that robber on the right hand, having seen You on the top of the cross, believed in You that You are God. On this Friday, You gained victory for our race which was conquered in Eden. On this Friday, the Sun became dark, as it saw You -the Great Sun of justice - on the cross. On this Friday, having seen You on Golgotha, the mountains were shaken, and earth trembled. On this Friday, they gave You vinegar and gall - to You, who are the infinite ocean of mercies. On this Friday, Pilate wrote the decree containing the judgement, in which the great mystery was depicted. On this Friday, You came for the passion on the cross, and You abolished our sufferings by Your life-giving passion. On this Friday, You stretched out Yourself voluntarily on the cross. You who stretched out heaven as a curtain. On this Friday, the fiery ones and the spirituals stand in wonder, having seen You suspended on the wood. On this Friday, Satan, and his hosts, all the rebellious demons perished like wax before fire. On this Friday, sun set in the firmament, and You made salvation in the midst of the earth. On this Friday, our race had salvation from death and Satan. On this Friday, the living cross, crucified sin by His crucifixion, full of amazing and divine mysteries. On this Friday, tombs and rocks were burst opened and the dead were revived, and they rose by Your voice. On this Friday, O Lord, from Your side came forth blood and water -the chalice of life for the believers who receive it with faith. On this Friday, complete redemption took place for men who believed and are believing in the mystery of Your death and your resurrection. On this Friday, while offering unceasing praise, the Holy Church says: Glory to You, Christ God, who descended by way of dispensation for the great humility for us. Glory to You, for You were exalted by the glory of victory and exalted our nature which was conquered in Eden. Glory to You, for by Your passion, you redeemed us. Glory to You, for might and power be¬ longs to You. Glory to You, who was and who is. Glory to You, *(being)* impassible by nature, who suffered for us by

way of dispensation. Glory to You from every mouth. Glory to You by every tongue. Glory to You for all. Glory to You, for You are incomprehensible. Glory to You, for You are infinite. Thousands and thousands of times glory to You. Myriads and myriads glory to You, and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit.

[NO 'ETRO]

GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY | SIXTH HOUR

PRUMIYON

To that Mighty One who bears the creation by His power, who voluntarily carried the wood of the cross in His death for us, that Hidden and Exalted One, who by the shedding of His absolving blood, abolished humanity's bond of debt, that Simple One who became composed *(ethrakab)* and who, by the stretching out of His hands, held all the borders and quarters of the Universe, that Lord of light, who from 'the East' rode to the 'West' of our humanity without being departed from the glory of His 'East', to Him befits....

SEDRO

Glory to You and thanksgiving to You, O Wise Creator, who by Your wisdom fashioned and arranged the world and everything in it with six words. Your Only Begotten Son, in six days of His passion, fulfilled all mysteries and renewed the creation. On Friday that Free One demonstrated infinite obedience and abolished the transgression of law by our first father Adam. On Friday, the Only Begotten God stretched out His hands on the cross and healed the stretching out of the hands by the first Adam, who gluttonously approached the fruit. For him, He accepted passion, death and cross from the crucifiers who were thirsting for blood and murder. Their heart which was harder than rock, did not perceive the things that have taken place, and they were not moved by what they

had done. Woe to them, for they dared to rise against the Creator, though they saw Him, perceived, and understood that he is the Only begotten God the Word. They did not set their souls free *(from evil),* nor did they wash their hands. But they remained with the hardness of their heart and prepared for the murder. They were ready to shed innocent blood and laid their hands on Him and condemned the Savior. They seized Him and securely and took Him to the tribunal and handed Him over to the judge. They compelled Him to carry the cross and led Him directly to Golgotha and made Him to ascend on the cross erected in the middle of the earth. They placed a crown of thorn on His glorious head, and spitted on His face. They dressed Him with a robe of scarlet as an insult. They gave Him vinegar and gall to drink. They nailed His hands and feet and pierced His side with a spear, and from (there) came forth blood and water symbolizing life and death. In loud voice. He cried out and said: My God, My God, why have You forsaken me? By His voice, earth trembled, and rocks shattered. Sun became dark, and flinty stones burst opened, and veil of the temple was torn into two from top to bottom. The fiery one's tremble, the spirituals are terrified, the ranks are stunned, the angels are amazed, and the Cherubim are shaken, the Seraphim are agitated, having seen their Lord suspended on the wood. Sun hid his rays, not to see the nakedness of its Lord. Darkness spread in the middle of the day for having seen the eternal light suspended on the wood. The disciples ran away; the friends were dispersed. Wake up and rise, O son of Berechiah! Behold Your prophecy that 'the shepherd has been struck and his sheep have been dispersed' *(Zech. 13:7)*. Where are the fiery ones? Where are those who are clad with fire? O Michael, where is your zeal? Where is Your sword which massacred thousands of Assyrians? O Gabriel the archangel, where is Your fervor of anger? Do not be afraid, O disciples? Take courage and be comforted and gather together! If Your Master was struck today. He will resurrect on Sunday as the prophecy has declared about Him. Where are You going, O Simon? Where are You hasting to, O John? Where

are you fleeing to, O Bartholomew? Where are you leaving for, O Thomas? Where are You going away, O Philip? Why are you sad, O Andrew? Why do you weep, O Jacob? Why do you mourn, O Labi? O apostles do not hasten to be dispersed! If you go away today, you will come together on Sunday. Today the running for flight, because of fear and on Sunday, the gathering for rejoicing. Today fear and trembling, on Sunday the rejoicing Good News. Today mourning for your company; on Sunday joy and happiness. Mourning and sadness to the Jews when they hear that your Master rose from the tomb. Therefore, Christ our God, we beseech You, on this day of Your redeeming passion: hold us impassible and invulnerable, and set us free from all reprehensible passions of sin, and by Your divine power, may we conquer all the operations of the enemy, by Your grace and of Your Father and of Your Holy Spirit.

ETRO

Glory to You, the child of the Father who was pleased by His love to suffer in the flesh for us and at sixth hour made the sun dark in the sky, lest he might see *(You)* naked on the cross, and on hearing Your voice, rocks burst opened, and the tombs were opened, and many dead rose from the tombs. Raise us O Lord, before You without the fall of sin all the days of our lives. Receive our incense, and be pleased in the incense of our service, that always we may give thanks to You and to Your Father.

GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY | NINTH HOUR

PRUMIYON

To Him who is exalted and hidden from all in His divine nature, who, being beyond passions, voluntarily came towards us to endure sufferings for us, that immortal One, who by His grace, tasted death in flesh for our salvation, that Judge of judges, who stood in the tribunal before the Governor Pilate, in order to set us free from the condemnation

of sin by His grace, to Him, who offered prayers for us, while receiving the prayers before His Father, to Him befits....

SEDRO

We glorify and confess Your sublime Essence, O God exalted and sublime, for You had made us in Your image and in Your likeness. We praise Your salvation, O Only Begotten Son, the Word of the heavenly Father, and we exalt Your Holy Spirit. We glorify You, for You have raised us from the contemptible dust to be the singers of praise before You. On Friday, the sixth of the month of Nisan, You did create Adam the first man to be the king of these things on earth. You placed him in Paradise that he might rejoice with glory and to have affinity with the angels. On Friday morning, You made him heir in Eden and gave him authority over all things on earth. But at the third hour, foolishly he approached the desirable fruit and ate *(it)* hastily and become naked. When Adam heard the intense voice: 'Adam, Adam, where are you? with shameful face, he answered and said: 'On hearing Your voice, my Lord, I hid myself". With anger and wrath. You told him: 'O disobedient servant, leave your inheritance, and (go out) to the accursed earth full of thorns!' On this Friday, by the lordly commandment, he was expelled from Paradise. From it, he was exiled to this wearisome life with Eve, who was fashioned for his help. When it was not pleasing for Your grace that Your royal image perishes. You did send Your Eternal Word for the salvation of Your image. Fie completed the dispensation without sinful passions. On the same Friday, he came prepared for the cross, in order to realize the salvation of Adam. He was imprisoned in the house of Hannah like an evil doer. Like a guilty one. He was beaten with a stick, in the house of Caiaphas. He clung to the pillar as weak. As a wretched. He was handed over to death in Pilate's palace. On Friday, Adam was created, and on Friday the 14th Nisan, our Lord and God Jesus Christ suffered in the flesh for us and redeemed us. On Friday, God

created Adam and on Friday, Christ received spittle from the impure, the children of Adam. On Friday, the animals and beasts gathered together before Adam, that he may give them names, inclining their heads and worshipping before him. On Friday, the Jews were gathered together against Christ, mocking Him and saying: Peace, O King of the Jews! The word of David was fulfilled: 'Numerous oxen and young bulls of Basan surrounded me'. On Friday, royal crown was placed on Adam's head, and on Friday, the crown of thorns was placed on our Lord's head. For three hours, Adam was in Paradise radiant with glory. For three hours, our Lord stood in the Tribunal, beaten by the earthly ones, the children of Adam. On Friday, Eve approached the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. On Friday at the sixth hour, Christ, the tree of life, ascended on the cross. On Friday the mortal fruit was given to Adam, and he ate *(it)* and died. On Friday, the assembly *(of the Jews)* gave our Lord vinegar and gall to drink. On Friday, in the Paradise, Adam was naked for three hours. On Friday, Christ was on the cross naked for three hours. From the left side of Adam, came forth Eve, the mother of the earthly and the mortals. Also, from the side of Christ, came forth blood and water, the cup of life and the spiritual drink. On Friday, Adam and Eve had sinned. On Friday, their sin was forgiven. On Friday, the eyes of both of them were opened and they realized that they were naked. On Friday, light dawned for them, and they obtained new life. On Friday, the greedy death reigned over them and on Friday the authority of death was abolished. On Friday, Adam and Eve went out of the Paradise, inclining their heads with sadness. On Friday, the sign of the cross bought them back to the Paradise with joy. On Friday, Christ stripped off the garments of glory and dressed Adam and Eve *(with it)*, instead of the robe of glory which they had stripped off among the trees. On Friday, by his deceit, Satan stripped them naked. On Friday, Christ exposed Satan and put his armies into shame. On Friday the door of the Paradise was closed and Adam and Eve who were virtuous *(shaphire)* left it, for they fell and became detested. On Friday, the

door of the Paradise was opened and the robber on the right hand entered it. On Friday, sharp sword was given to the Cherub to guard the Paradise. On Friday, Christ was wounded by lance, and He broke sharp sword, and ruined the fence of enmity. On Friday Adam became king, priest, and prophet. And on Friday kingship, priesthood and prophecy were taken away from the Jews. On Friday, from the Paradise of delight, Adam descended to the world of curses. On Friday, Christ descended from the top of the cross towards those who were sleeping in the dust. In His divine economy, Christ completed all the humble things that Adam did, except sin. Valiantly, He conquered death and condemned sin. In the same place where Adam was buried and Melchizedek the high priest ministered, and Abraham took his son Isaac for sacrifice, there the cross of our God and Savior Jesus was erected. And blood and water flowed in drops mystically from the mouth of Adam. Therefore, on account of His dispensation which He completed for us, let us offer up thanksgiving to Him, and to His Father and to His Holy Spirit. Now...

[No 'Etro]

Great and Holy Saturday | Vespers / Ramsho

Introductory Prayer

O Lord God, O Lover of Man, make us worthy with Joseph and Nicodemus to honor Your life-giving burial with good works, as they had embalmed and buried You with Myrrh and aloe. May you enter into our souls and take rest as if in a new tomb. Along with the living whom You have redeemed with Your Cross and the dead whom You

visited, may we offer up glory and praise to You and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit, now and always, forever, and ever. Amin.

PRUMIYON

To that Living and immortal by nature, who voluntarily died in the flesh, for us the mortals, who is the life and resurrection of all, and for us, dwelt voluntarily among the dead like the slain, in order to vivify us, who were killed by sin, who by His entombment dissolved the corruption of the tomb, and sowed incorruptible life among the dead, and with His body preserved our bodies without injury and corruption, and through His soul preached salvation to our souls, to Him befits...

SEDRO

Christ our God, the life, revival *(nuhomo)* and resurrection *(qyomtho)* of all, who alone is immortal and incorruptible, Yours is the whole authority and heroism, and in You alone is found holiness and justice. Always it befits You glory from those who are above and below. O Lord, by Your abundant love and the magnificence of Your loving kindness, voluntarily You came for us for passion and death. With flesh, soul, and intelligence You became (man) from Mary, Mother of God, without change, naturally and hypostatically. *(lit:You became enfleshed, ensouled and enspirited*). Up to the cross. You fulfilled the entire dispensation, exalted from the knowledge of those who are created and made. In Your terrible crucifixion. You showed ineffable wonders. Sun became dark at noon. Night was manifested in the day. Hard rocks burst asunder. Closed tombs were opened. The bodies of the saints rose to life. The curtain of the temple was torn from top to bottom. The robber confesses and reproves his companion for his impiety. The centurion glorifies, saying: truly He is the Son of God. From Your side flowed life-giving and immortal water and blood. *(Even)* when You died. You were seen living, and when are on earth. You dwell in the heights. You are believed as One God from divinity and humanity, for

humanly and divinely. You endured all those things that Adam had to suffer. As Almighty, You made our sufferings Yours. By Your grace. You made ours, the victory that You had won. Voluntarily You received our death and by Your living death. You killed the death that killed us. And You who are immortal, granted us immortality. Likewise, by Your passion. You caused suffering to the evil one who causes suffering to us. You who are impassible by nature, imparted impassibility to us, the passible ones. When You, inapproachable and boundless, who upholds all, gave Yourself to be entombed. You were carried in the hands by Joseph the just, and upright from Arimathea *(Romtho).* By Nicodemus, Your friend. You were wrapped up and embalmed in pure linen. Myrrh and fine aloe. You were laid in the grave like a dead and You were placed in a new tomb hewn out of the rock. Then all the terrible angels of heaven came down to honor Your lordly entombment. Since Your gesture did not allow them to come down near You at the time of Your crucifixion, lest the accursed assembly of Jews shall perish by their intense zeal. But they came down towards Your friends and taught them the hymn of victory, saying: Holy art, Thou O God; Holy art thou O Almighty; Holy art Thou, O Immortal! They added: 'He who was crucified for us, have mercy upon us! We, O Lord, with right faith, with Joseph and Nicodemus, cry out saying: Holy art, thou O God the Word, who became man for us, while remaining God, without change and made us, the sons of men, gods by Your grace. Holy art thou, O Almighty, for You humbled Yourself for us, the miserable, and received insults, disgrace, mocking and pain, and gave us strength and courage against all abominable and impure passions. Holy art thou, O Immortal, for You died on the cross for us and redeemed us, by Your death in the flesh, from evil and death, while You are Immortal and incorruptible by nature, and You were pleased to be entombed for the three day-burial, in order to preach the kingdom of God to those who were held in Sheol, and to announce resurrection and life to the dead there, and to console Adam and Eve as well as all the just from the

beginning with the Good News of the resurrection and the return to Eden. Therefore, we beseech You, Christ our God, to hold us worthy of the gift of Your mercies. Console us with the fulfillment of Your promises. Make us rejoice on the Sunday of Your resurrection. Make the renewal of righteousness to us as well as to our departed. We and they will offer up glory and thanksgiving to You and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit. Now...

ETRO

Lord God, Jesus Christ, sweet and fragrant odor, who does not need the plants and the spices of the earth to be offered by men for the pleasure of His Lord- ship, for He is Omnipotent, who condescended to be placed bodily in the grave, with the spices of Nicodemus and with the linen of Joseph. O Lord, by Your love for humanity, accept from our feeble hands this incense that we offer now to your Lordship on the day of the memorial of Your crucifixion. By Your grace, grant us remission of our debts and sins as well as of our departed, here and in the coming world. We will offer up glory and thanksgiving to You and to Your Father.

GREAT AND HOLY SATURDAY | COMPLINE / SOUTORO

PRUMIYON

To Him who is Living and the giver of Life, who voluntarily joined together with death in the flesh, who, with His gesture, moves the natures to preach His Lordship to the creation, and by His commandment, made the sun dark lest the insolents see His

nakedness, and divinely burst opened the rocks with His voice, and opened the tombs with His power, and by His death raised the dead to life, by His slaughter, brought out those who were in the tombs, that they might rebuke the crucifiers, to Him befits....

SEDRO

O Mighty One, who did inscrutable miracles, the Almighty who, on the day of His passion, enshrouded the sky with darkness, and on the day of His crucifixion, put a covering of sack *(over it),* according to the prophetic word, the Maker who spread heaven like a hanging, made earth firm upon water, God who was stretched abusively on the cross. The Mighty One treaded on Golgotha and the foundations of the earth were shaken. By jealousy, the Only Begotten was crucified. The Almighty looked at the elements *(of the earth)* and they were held up with trembling. The True Son cried out on the cross and the heaven was shaken, and by His innocent blood, which dropped on the earth, caused the ends of the earth to quake. The Bridegroom from above, the terrified the natures when He stood on the cross and showed that He is True God. Great lamp that was placed on the lampstand of the cross, breathed on the sun and it became obscured. The true light of the creation that stood on the top of Golgotha, caused the created sun to descend to the place of darkness. The Holy Ray was suspended on the wood and sent its beams of light to the abyss of Sheol. Lord of the natures was crucified and caused the natures to tremble, and they honored Him. At the time of the passion of the Creator, the height and the depth witnessed that He is God. The wonderful things that the 'Fashioner' did, preached that He is the Maker. On seeing its Lord naked, the day rents its garment, and it wears the clothes of night at midday, and the earth throws away the bodies of the dead before Him. Immediately the creations put on black, with other things that were done today O Lord Jesus Christ, we astonish at Your inscrutable coming, saying that O God, indeed You had done great things and wonders, and who is

there like You? Over this incense, we beseech You and supplicate You, arouse always in us the mystery of Your humility. Make us fervent with the love of Your cross. Fill us with the great pride of Your crucifixion. Teach us to pray like You. From the heights of Your holiness, send us abundant mercies. On account of all Your graces towards us, we offer up glory and exultation to You and to Your Father....

[No 'Etro]

Great and Holy Saturday | Night / Lilyo: First Qaumo

Prumiyon

To Him who revealed the life by His death, and gained divinity for us by His humanity and exalted us by His humility, granted us resurrection by His entombment, and lifted us up by His descent into Sheol, and awakened us, by His sleeping in the tomb. To Him befits...

Sedro

Christ our God, the hope of the dead and the resurrection of the departed, after taking You down from the wood of the cross, following the order of Pilate the Judge, when Joseph the Just asked for Your holy body, and Nicodemus the teacher of the Law, enshrouded You with linen, and embalmed You with Myrrh and aloe, they took You to the tomb and placed you *(in it)* like a dead. In a small place of three cubits. You lied down like a dead. By Your intense power, Sheol was shaken and by Your strength. You robbed the hard *(toruno)* treasure houses of death. You bound the mighty one who subdued humanity and snatched from his hands the captive whom he has enslaved *(lit: carried off/ snatch)* and brought back the captive whom he captured by his rebellion. And You caused the walled enclosure of Sheol to quake, and You destroyed its walls which held *(lit: swallowed up)* all the mighty ones. You trampled on his neck and crushed his

head, who, by his bitter jealousy caused the head of our race to perish. You gave up Yourself to death voluntarily and announced the great mystery of Your entry to the dead who were in Sheol, and granted faith in You and the knowledge of Your dispensation to the souls who were disobedient even in the day of Noah. Your divinity did not separate from Your soul, nor from Your body, but uniting both. You have joined death with the body. But by Your soul. You introduced into Paradise the thief, who confessed You as You had promised. You destroyed the lance of the guardian cherub and brought the human race back to its inheritance. Sheol exalted itself at Your death, and Your entry, according to the word of the prophet, for the dead worshipped You and glorified You with their bodies and souls and they clearly perceived you. You tasted the bitter death as man, and drank the strong drink like a feeble one, and henceforward. You made to sleep that which was terrible and full of trembling and removed tears from every face. Behold, the living and the dead glorify You. Behold all mouths with their tongues sing praise to You. Glory to You, who died and vivified us. Glory to You who resurrected to incorruptibility and became the first born among dead and the first fruit among those who sleep. Therefore, we beseech You to redeem us, who die through You, from second death of the dead, O Lord. Deliver us from the corruption of sin and from the whirlpool of perdition and make our departed who left in Your hope to rejoice in Your heavenly kingdom. We and they will offer up glory and thanksgiving to You and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit...

[No 'Etro]

Great and Holy Saturday | Night / Lilyo: Second Qaumo

Prumiyon

Glory to Him who dwells in unapproachable and infinite light, who was pleased to manifest briefly in the lower parts of the earth to those who had fallen asleep, who is divinely not contained by the borders and the quarters, and a small tomb contained Him humanly, as He was please, for whom, though the bosom of the Father alone is able to contain Him by *(His)* Essence, He was pleased to be contained wonderfully in the womb of the virgin, and today he dwelt in the "womb of Sheol" as dead, and by *(His)* love for humanity sprinkled the dew of mercy and compassion on the dried up bones and truly preached salvation in the place of those who are entombed, to Him befits....in this moment...

SEDRO

We exalt You, splendidly. Word the God, Son of the hidden Father, for truly You became perfect man, except in sin. We always confess Your love for humanity towards us, for, being Living and the Giver of Life by nature, by *(Your)* love. You endured death on the cross for us by way of dispensation, in order to redeem us from death. We worship Your compassion, for befitting the Redeemer, voluntarily You were shut in the tomb, in order to bring us out of the confinement of Sheol. We glorify Your love, for with pity. You descended towards the dead, in order to visit us, who are ravaged by death and to vivify *(us)* divinely. We praise Your mercies, for You inclined Yourself towards Adam, - who was lying down in the depths of Sheol with sadness - to lift him and his children mercifully from the drowning of the place of the dead be¬ low. We exalt the greatness of Your grace, for You were pleased to set us free from the kidnapper, entering the city of death like a spy and rescued our race from his teeth, and killed him and destroyed his city and laid it waste completely. You being Lord and God of all, voluntarily endured passion and death from rebellious servants, and by Your love for humanity, and by Your life-giving death, You redeemed us from disgraceful passions, and the death of sin. You,

who are divinely dressed with light like a mantle, were pleased to be enshrouded by Joseph with linen and spices. You, whom the amazing forms of chariot extol divinely with fear, were pleased to be contained by the tomb hewn in rock. You, who have placed the entire creation in the palms of Your hand and holding all diligently, were pleased to be shut up terribly under seal and guards of the crucifiers. You, whose power disturbs the mighty with trembling, like a wounded and a killed combated against death and Satan and heroically conquered them. For the weak and the mean. You granted power and victory as a hope. In Your person. You descended towards Adam who had fallen and granted him courage and consolation, and affectionately filled him with good hope You are the one who, generally in the Sheol, makes happy the just and the upright from the beginning, and showed them clearly Your passions for the entire world. You are the one who perfectly gladdens Moses and his companions, the prophets, and perfected completely all that they had indicated about You. You informed David astonishingly about Your nails, vinegar, gall, and Your garments, and to Isaiah, You indicated amazingly about the spitting, torments, beating on the cheek. You revealed eminently to Moses the stretching out of Your hands and that You will be raised like a serpent on the wood. You clearly showed Zachariah Your stab with the lance and the rest of Your wounds. Thus, You announced that as immortal. You give salvation to all the dead. We, O Lord, who confess without doubt Your passions and cross, and Your humility, know that, as the Only Begotten, You are one in the height, in the depth, upon earth, in Your Father's bosom, in the tomb, in heaven near the watchers and in Sheol near the departed. Today with sadness, we beseech Your compassion: Do not renounce us before Your Father, for we have confessed Your divinity. Do not reckon us with those who have completely denied Your unity, for we have not blindly denied Your humanity. But grant us and hold us worthy and our departed altogether; as we have suffered in Your passion, may we rejoice together in Your glorious resurrection, and as we trust whole heartedly

in Your salvation, grant us abundantly Your mercies and compassion, and as we confess You and Your Father and Your Holy Spirit as Trinity, confess laudably before Him and before Your angels. With the thief on the right hand, we will together offer up cheerful glory to You and unending thanksgiving and continuous praise to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit. Now....

[No 'Etro]

Great and Holy Saturday | Night / Lilyo: Third Qaumo

Prumiyon

Glory to that Living One and the giver of Life, who alone is immortal and incorruptible by nature, since He had become incarnate, bravely He fought against death and destroyed his sting, and laid his city waste, and plundered his might and brought out its prisoners and filled them with the hope of resurrection, it befits glory and honor with His Father and His Holy Spirit, in this time....

Sedro

Christ our God, who by Your life-giving death and vivifying entombment, by Your love for humanity. You have sown in our souls good hope of the resurrection of the dead, and the abolition of death. On this great day, we glorify You and exalt You, we offer up due glory to Your Lordship saying: Glory to You O God, for Your love brought You for this entire voluntary abasement for us. Glory to You, O Eternal Son of the Father, for Your compassion 'made You man' for our salvation. Glory to You, O Mighty and Exalted One, for Your love for humanity made You to enter the tribunal for our freedom. Glory to You, O Judge of the judges, for Your grace made You to stand in the tribunal, on account of our guilt. Glory to You, honorable in glory, and praise to Your name, for Your mercies made you to be condemned to death in order to redeem us. Glory to You, the

trysting place *(w'ado)* of life, for Your love made You to descend towards the dead in order to raise *(them)* up. Glory to You, the Just and the righteous, for You have shown Your mighty heroism by Your power on the cross. Glory to You, the God and the Blessed One, for You have the key of the garden of joy to the thief as reward for his glorious faith. Glory to You, the true priest, and the high priest of justice, for You reconciled Your Father with Your great sacrifice for us. Gory to You, the Lord of death and the end who descended through Your soul, into the devouring Sheol and preached salvation there. Glory to You, the hope and expectation of the gentiles, for You entered the dark inner chambers below the earth and illuminated those who were cast down in misery there. Glory to You, the redeemer of our race, for Your glorious splendors dawned to the souls of the dead and gladdened them. Glory to You, the resurrection and life of all who are fallen, for You raised Adam and his children from corruption through Your resurrection on the third day which also abolished the corruption of the tombs. Glory to You, the heavenly peace, for by Your might. You broke down the strong fortifications of Sheol, the city of death, and by Your grace, made it a treading down for the dead. Therefore, we beseech You, O God, on this festal and holy day to receive from us miserable and sinners, the intercessions, and supplications that we offer to You and the services, vigils, prayers, and the toils that we make day and night before You. Shower forth upon all of us together Your abundant graces and rich gifts. By the diligence of Your mercies, grant healing to the sick and the afflicted and console those who mourn and are sad, and sustenance to the hungry and the poor, coming back to errands and the lost, protection to those who are near and far, tranquility to those who are in enmity and to the wrathful, deliverance to the rejected and the oppressed; forgiveness to the sinners and the offenders, unity to the churches and the monasteries. Remove from them as well as from the entire world schisms and controversies and all stripes and the rods of wrath. By Your compassion, hold us worthy to embrace one another with pure heart, innocent mind,

and perfect love. Hold us and our fathers, brethren, teachers and the faithful departed for the life of condition *(qayomo)* of the righteous and for the confidence before You and for the joy at Your right hand, in Your kingdom. Our Lord Jesus Christ. We will offer up glory and thanksgiving to You and to Your Father...

[NO 'ETRO]

GREAT AND HOLY SATURDAY | MATINS / SAPRO

PRUMIYON

Glory to Him who is Living by nature and voluntarily tasted death, and by His power gave the sensation *(or taste)* of resurrection to the dead lying down *(in tombs),* to Him who slept among the dead and with His voice awakened all the dead of Sheol, to that Mighty and Powerful one against whom the jews went around to guard the tomb and sealed the stone with guards, to Him who killed death and ravaged Sheol and destroyed the evil who killed Adam, it befits.

SEDRO

Christ our God, power and Might of the Essence, the arm and the strength of greatness, the natural and substantial wisdom of the Father through whom the Father made all things that came in to existence, and by whom Adam the head of the creation was created in the image and likeness of the Creator, Free and the One who has authority by Himself *(shalit baitho),* the one who is adorned with kingdom, priesthood, and prophecy, who is able to bear this great burden for many- except You, the Most valiant of all *(ganboro d-'olme).* O Lord, Your mercies dawned on Adam who transgressed Your commandment and fell from his position, and You came down from the heights of Your holiness, and was born from his *(Adam's)* daughter and was grown in all measures of

nature. You endured voluntarily passions and pains, and You died in the flesh and redeemed him and restored him to his former glory. When You tasted death with the dead and You were reckoned with the dead, the heaven and the earth trembled, and the hosts of the fiery ones pressed one another, and they gently moved their wings to burn up the world. Evil and death trembled, and their authority perished and was abolished. Today death was trampled down at the door of Sheol. The Planter of Paradise sought Adam in the garden, and He found him. Today in a secret place. His mother with her companions, was weeping for Him whose glory is narrated by heavens, and the creation preaches the greatness of His power. Today the apostles, the innocent lambs hid themselves in secret places. Today O Lord, the Church, Your true bride takes pride in Your death and cherishes Your passions, and Your crucifixion. Therefore, Christ the Redeemer, confirm Your promises for her and bless her children within her and exalt the sign of Your cross. Adorn her with the assembly of her children, and fill her with abundant peace, and answer all her requests, and overshadow Your right hand on her. May Your grace hover over her children and may Your mercies be a protection for her and Your compassion a high fortress and may Your justice and grace help her. Increase all Your gifts to her; shower forth the abundant blessings to her and may Your Holy Spirit dwell with her. May the faithful departed who had left from her rejoice in the abodes of Jerusalem. O Only Begotten God, she, and her children, with one concord, will glorify Your passion, death, entombment for her, and she will give thanks and worship You and Your Father who sent You for our salvation and Your Holy and Life-Giving Spirit. Now....

ETRO

Blessed are You, O Living One, who by the incense of Your death, vivified the death and by Your entombment, resuscitated those who were laid in the tomb and abolished the

authority of death and made it a slumber to the redeemed. Now O Lord, by this fragrant incense, put to death all the impulses of sin and resuscitate innocent life of justice in our members. Cause to exhale in our members the sweet odor of virtuous manners. Give rest to the faithful departed in the blessed places. We and they will offer up glory and thanksgiving to You and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit. Now and always forever.

GREAT AND HOLY SATURDAY | THIRD HOUR

PRUMIYON

Glory to the Living and the Giver of Life who died in the flesh and vivified the race of the mortals, the holy One who did not see corruption in Sheol, that Mighty One, who entered the land of the dead and preached resurrection to those who are in tombs and true hope to those who have fallen asleep and immortal life to the departed. To Him befits.

SEDRO

Christ our God, the true Life, and the Life-Giver to the creation, who came for voluntary passion, being by nature, beyond the passions of all passible ones, and endured cross and death for our salvation. According to the type that Jonah had prefigured by the ocean and the fish. He remained three days in Sheol. The lion's whelp lied down in the bosom of Sheol, like a feeble one, as Jacob prophesied on Him that he 'ascended from killing' *(Gen 49:9)*. Samson indicated Him by the sweet food came out of the one who eats, *(that is)*, the cruel death. *(Jud. 14:14)*. The robber recognized that He is the heavenly king, from whom he heard the voice, *(saying)*, 'today You will be in Paradise with me', which is the pledge of life. The Centurion confessed Him that He is the Son of the True God. Joseph asked Pilate the Governor for His body and took Him enshrouded with

linen and embalmed *(the body)* with myrrh and aloe and according to his ability, he honored Him and placed Him in his new tomb. According to the word of the prophet, Sheol was in bitter sorrow at His entrance, and by His entombment, its foundations were destroyed. The contemptible one entered and emptied its treasure houses and destroyed its inner chamber. Rightly it was asked: O death, where is Your sting? O Sheol. Where is Your victory? *(1 Cor. 15:55).* The Mighty King bound the cruel death and captured from him the captives from the house of Adam. He condemned the strong one and dissolved his authority. The crowd of destruction united for the murder of the heir, the tenants of the vineyard mocked at him, saying: 'ha, ha, our eye has seen him; the one who demolishes the temple in three days, save yourself!' Church the daughter of the gentiles sitting with great lamentation for the death of the bridegroom who betrothed her answered to the adulterous bride as the prophet had taught her, saying: 'O my enemy, do not rejoice in me, for, even though I have fallen, I will rise up; and even though I am sitting in darkness, the Lord will enlighten me.' Therefore, Christ our God, we sing, saying: God is risen, and all His enemies have been dispersed; they have knelt down and fallen; but we have arisen and are prepared, and our help is by the name of the Lord, who redeemed us from the destruction of death. May we and our departed be prepared to take delight in Your kingdom, and rejoice at Your vision, and may we offer up glory and thanksgiving to You and to Your Father....

['No 'etro]

Great and Holy Saturday | Sixth Hour

Prumiyon

Glory to Him who is, by nature, the Living and the Giver of Life, the hope of the dead and the revival of those who have fallen asleep, the resurrection of the entombed and

the one who gladdens those who sleep in the dust, that splendor which illuminates the darkness, the refreshing dew for the captives, the one who killed the death and devastated Sheol, the one who renews His image and sustains his creation, to Him befits....

SEDRO

Who has the mind and the word, capable of narrating those things that happened yesterday and today, regarding the invisible, inconceivable, and ineffable child? Yesterday, the Friday of passion, judgement, and crucifixion! Today the Saturday of peace and consolation! Yesterday the scribes, Pharisees, elders, and the high priests were laughing and today the dead who were lying down, glorify! Yesterday, the rocks burst opened and the veil of the temple torn apart, and today the tombs were opened. Yesterday the Mighty One embraced the pillar. Today He is laid in Sheol on the dust of Adam. Yesterday, the Friday full of passions and sorrow. Today, the Saturday of annunciation. Yesterday, the crucifiers were laughing, and today the dead are raised to life, and they glorify with joy. Today Sheol flourished with praises like Nisan, and like the flowers, the dead sprung up *(shwah)* from their tombs with exultation. Today silence hovered over the earth, and below it, and clamor was heard in the streets of Sheol. Today tombs became sad to see death being bound and Adam being released. Today all those who have fallen asleep cried out in one voice: 'Blessed is the honor of the Lord in His place for ever' (Ez. 3:12). We also beseech You, through this fragrant incense that we offer to You: O Lord, hold us worthy of Your wonderful care, which grants us remission of debts and forgiveness of sins. Grant us to rejoice with You, and in Your resurrection and to exult and to sing praise in Your raising to life. Sprinkle the dew of Your mercies and compassion on the faithful departed. Give rest to their souls in Your heavenly

kingdom and may we and they offer up glory and thanksgiving to You and to Your Father.

[No 'Etro]

Great and Holy Saturday | Ninth Hour

Prumiyon

Glory to Him who is, by nature. Living and the Giver of life to the mortals by His grace, who voluntarily died in the flesh and was pleased to descend into Sheol, the free One, who placed Himself among the dead by His authority, who announced the hope of life to those who are in the tombs, and preached revival to the departed, and promised resurrection to the mortals, to Him befits...

Sedro

Christ our God, we worship, and we confess, and we praise You on account of all Your graces towards us, especially on the day of Your entry into Sheol, for, O Lord, You endured sufferings in the flesh for us, and You dwelt in the heart of the earth for three days and three nights. You bound and tied the strong one and the tyrant; You plundered Sheol and brought back the captives, through Your redeeming and life-giving blood, and You announced peace and joy, without experiencing corruption. As God, You rose with glory and raised us with You without corruption. Now O Lord, we exult and say: Today the Lord has shown His salvation to those who fear Him and revealed His justice before the gentiles. Today with the divine singer David, let us cry out saying: This is the day which the Lord has made. Come let us exalt and rejoice in it. This is the great feast. Today, the joy; today the salvation; today the great festival. Today the angels announce joy to those who are on earth. Today lamentation for the crucifiers, consolation to the disciples, and sadness to the Jews. Exultation and rejoicing in the Church. Today we

have come to the hope of salvation. Today the one who wakes up the dead with His voice and renews His creation, reckoned Himself with the dead. Yesterday we saw Him on the cross, who suspends the heaven and the earth with the gesture of His grace, being fastened with nails and His side pierced with lance. Today we have seen Him in the tomb who plundered the death and emptied his treasures. Below Joseph asked Pilate's grace to bury Him, and above He commands Gabriel and his companions to see His glory. Here Mary asks, weeping: Who has robbed Him from the tomb? And above He encourages the Seraphim not to be ceased from His glorification. Therefore, we beseech You to grant us Your tranquility and peace and by the care of Your grace, visit the sick, afflicted and those who are tempted by evil spirits, and to make good and acceptable memory before You to everyone who has fallen asleep in Your hope, with true faith. Hold them and us worthy of the blessed resurrection with confidence that we and they may offer up glory and thanksgiving to You and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit. Now, always, and forever....

[No 'Etro]

This Concludes Great and Holy Week